

Red Scare in Residence • Kevin McPhee Apologizes, Buys Us Beer

THE MCGILL DAILY

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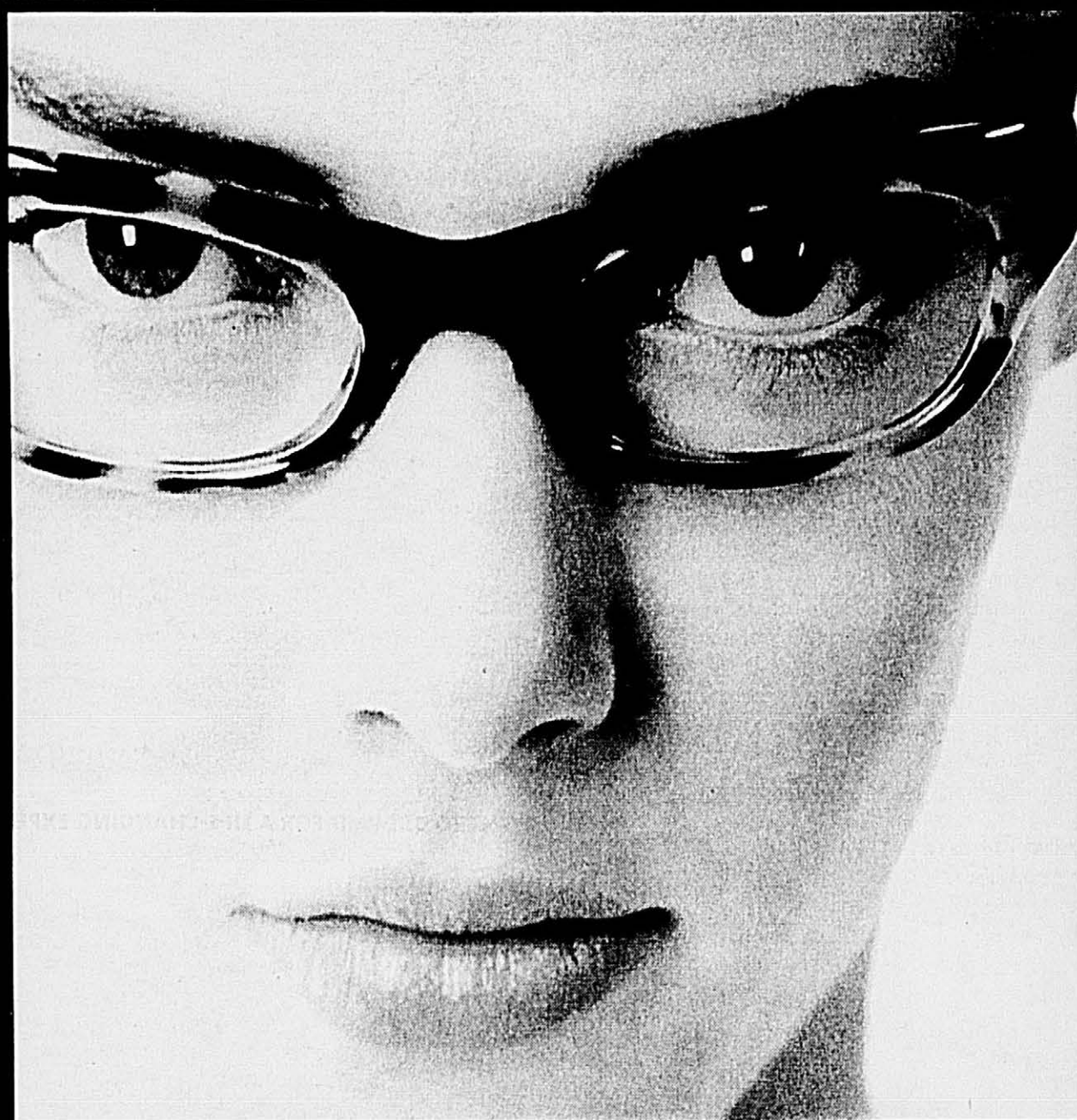
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Redefining What's Left

Could a McGill conference on the future of social democracy in Canada change the future of the NDP?

BY JOSLYN OOSENBURG
News Reporter

A conference on the future of the social democratic movement in Canada is slated to be held at McGill this spring. Organizers of the event, including former NDP leader Ed Broadbent and McGill Canadian Studies Professor Desmond Morton, hope that such a conference could pave a new path for the future of the NDP and social democracy in Canada. The McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, which is chaired by Morton, is considering funding the conference.

"It seems odd that social democracy would be withering in North America and growing in Europe," said Morton. He adds that in contrast to North America, most large European countries have some form of social democratic government. "What has happened? [Broadbent and I] thought that a conference on the future of that idea might be worth having."

Morton says that the purpose of the conference is simply to open up a forum for discussion. "The Institute [for the study of Canada] has no political axe to grind," he said.

"I hope [that people will come to the conference and] walk away transformed by more ideas and more knowledge than they had when they came in the room."

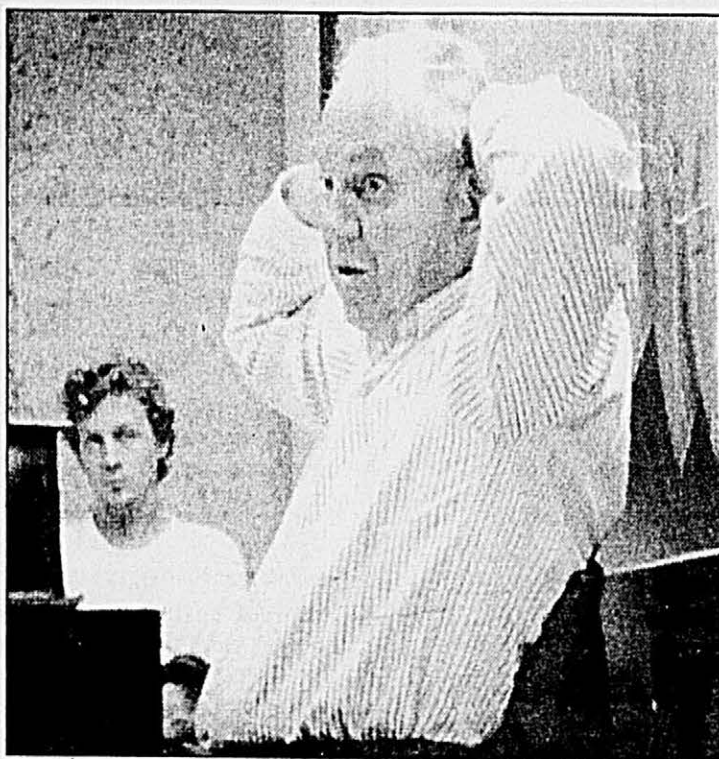
"We have to quit thinking about the next election and obtaining power. We have to start thinking about how we can influence Canada's [political] agenda on behalf of working people."

-Buzz Hargrove

The conference is in the wake of the extremely poor results for the NDP in November's federal election, in which the party lost 8 of their 21 seats.

"There's considerable significance—perhaps concern, perhaps glee—that [the NDP] is reduced to 13 seats, which is almost the edge of oblivion," said Morton. "[The conference would be a type of] intellectual exercise, which some people, like Mr. Broadbent, think would be positive and helpful."

Willy Blomme, a UO Arts student who ran as a NDP candidate for the federal riding of Westmount-Ville-Marie, thinks that a conference on the future of the left in Canada could be a fruitful exercise. "There are many people in the NDP talking about a need to reassess what we're doing and where



Ed Broadbent strikes a pose while teaching a class at McGill last semester

we're going," she said. "I think that an intellectual discussion about where we're going is very important, just to get things out there."

Buzz Hargrove, President of the Canadian Auto Workers, has been calling for debate on the future of the NDP ever since the announcement of the results of the federal election.

Hargrove has been adamant that the NDP has strayed from its leftist roots, and that by doing so, it has alienated its base of support, namely the labour movement.

"There's a crisis of confidence in our party by the Canadian people," he told The Daily. "We have to quit thinking about the next election and obtaining power. We have to start thinking about how we can influence Canada's [political] agenda on behalf of working people... and those without voice or privilege in our society."

Hargrove says that if invited to participate in the conference, he would like to attend. However, he notes that an academic conference is only the first step in reforming the party.

"There has to be an internal task force that conducts an outreach to the left in Canada," he said.

"This [conference] is not the be all and end all... but it can be a catalyst for debate for those who are interested in rebuilding the left in Canada."

According to Professor Morton, the primary planning of the conference would be undertaken by the Institute for the Study of Canada staff.

Among the participants in the planning of the conference are Tessa Hebb, Professor of Business at Carleton University and President of the Douglas-Coldwell Foundation for research and education in support of the social democratic movement in Canada; Ken Georgetti, President of the Canadian Labour Congress; and Bill Blaikie, NDP House Leader and MP for Winnipeg-Transcona.

The conference is slated for May, after the school term has ended, because, says Morton, there is not the space at McGill while classes are in session. Although Morton acknowledges that the NDP are not major players on Montreal's political scene, he still believes that many people in the city are interested in social democratic issues and the future of the party.

"Montreal is not a wild scene of NDP activity," he said. "But there are people here who have ideas. So I don't want to say that Montreal or McGill can't house it because of the lack of interest. In fact,

there's been quite phenomenal interest from students... far more than I expected."

Details about the conference will be discussed in a meeting at the Institute for the Study of Canada on Monday.

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Quebec Students Drop Out Faster

Province wants McGill to address problem

BY DAVID PODGORSKI
News Reporter

Francophone students may be dropping out of McGill at a higher-than-average rate, according to recent statistics that have some university administrators worried.

Although McGill's graduation rate ranks among the best in the province, the administrators say that something needs to be done about the fact that francophone students seem to be leaving the university more often than other students.

The statistics compare Quebec-born, out-of-province, and international students. While 87 per cent of international students and 82 per cent of non-Quebec Canadians that enter McGill earn a diploma, only 76 per cent of Quebec-born students graduate. And although McGill does not have statistics comparing anglophone and francophone students, administrators say the numbers may mean that francophone students are dropping out more often than anglophone students.

According to the Vice-Principal Academic's Office Director Real Del Degan, administrators have been particularly concerned with graduation rates for about two years, but that extra scrutiny has come in light of the performance contract recently reached between McGill and the provincial government. The contract included a promise from McGill to maintain its 80 per cent overall graduation rate and to better the graduation rate in areas where it has fallen below that number.

In return for meeting the conditions set out in the performance contract, McGill will be entitled to an extra \$20-million in funding this year, an additional \$30-million the next year, and \$40-million more the following year.

"It does look like there may be a lower graduation rate among francophone students," admitted Del Degan. "What this means is that we've got some areas where we're a bit weaker."

When the issue was raised at Senate last November, Vice-Principal (Academic) Luc Vinet pointed out that the statistics do not

differentiate between Quebec students who drop out and those who transfer to other schools in the province. He also noted that francophone students may find McGill less hospitable than other Quebec universities.

Del Degan said that while administrators are generally comfortable with overall graduation numbers, more needs to be done to make sure that a higher rate of francophone students graduate from McGill, especially as the pool of CEGEP applicants applying to university is shrinking.

"You can't ever have 100 per cent retention," he said. "But we're going to try to improve where we're weak."

Del Degan also said that, in the coming months, McGill and the province will take a much closer look at just how low the francophone graduation rate really is. McGill has

having difficulty with the English instruction in most McGill courses.

"If someone has gone to high school and CEGEP in French and they move to an English university, then they are faced with all the difficulties of university as well as having to deal with a new language," Del Degan said.

Louis-Claude Daquin, a U2 music student, says his own frustrations with McGill have to do with the fact that students from Quebec come to school at age 20, compared to non-Quebec students who enter McGill at 17 or 18.

"When you get to McGill in your first year, they treat you like you're still in high school. It's like the university can't change for you," he said.

The university has attempted to address these concerns through a variety of initiatives in recent years. A few years ago the university set up Le Réseau Francophone, an information-sharing facility for francophone students.

And last year, the university also hired a francophone facilitator to help students having difficulties. Del Degan also points to academic initiatives

that the university has taken, such as developing intensive English-language courses to help francophone students adapt to English instruction.

Meanwhile, some think that the graduation rate figures may reflect another problem — that many francophone students are simply not active in extra-curricular student life.

Louis-Philippe Messier, a francophone student and former SSMU

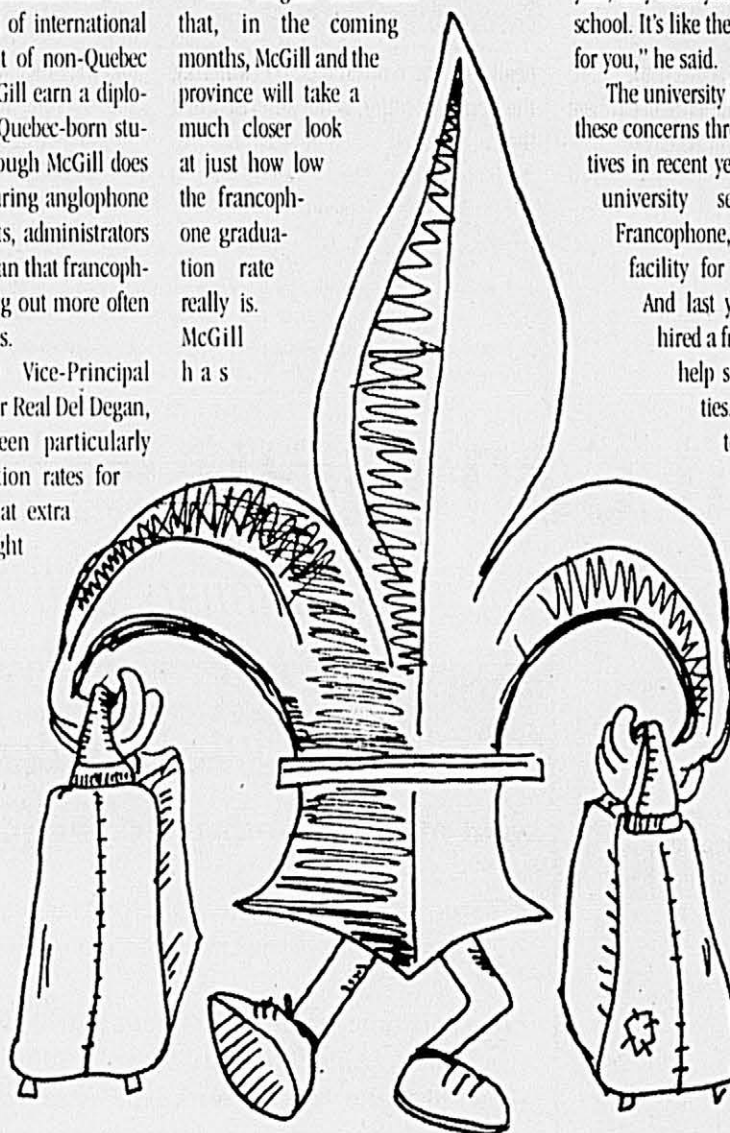
Francophone Commissioner, says that has to do with a lack of opportunity for francophone students to associate with one another while being active on campus.

"Francophone students are separated from their friends," he said. "This means low morale and a lack of participation. It's sad because you have a lot of students who come to McGill to learn English and to be exposed to a different culture, but they just can't fit in."

plans to look more closely at students' background, including linguistic background, in analyzing graduation rate data.

Meanwhile, the province's ongoing program to force students to register for permanent codes will eventually provide data which indicates whether francophone students are dropping out altogether or simply continuing their education at other schools.

Del Degan said that if there is a problem with francophone students dropping out, he thinks it may have to do with them



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Shatner Renovations Still Grounded

Months behind schedule, renovations to begin after January

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH
The McGill Daily

Over six months after SSMU initially planned to overhaul the basement and ground floor of the Shatner student centre, the building remains untouched and it will be another four weeks before the construction work even begins.

When SSMU was embroiled in a legal battle with The McGill Daily during the summer and into early October, it was claimed in court that the only obstacle standing in the way of renovations was the lawsuit between the two student organizations. The lawsuit was settled over three months ago, and with construction work not yet begun, the Students' Society is blaming the university's administration for the latest delay to the schedule.

"With the last set of delays, if I was going to point a finger, it would be at McGill," said SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak. The Students' Society leases Shatner from McGill, and the university must give final approval on all proposed structural changes to the building. According to Baraniak, SSMU had been given permission during the summer to go ahead with renovations, only to be asked in October that its

agreement with McGill be clarified.

"This was beyond our control, it's a McGill building and essentially they are our masters when it comes to major renovations," he said.

The improvements that are planned for Shatner – including a revamped Gert's bar, a new wheelchair entrance in the basement, a larger Travel Cuts and a student lounge on the main floor – will come with a hefty price tag of nearly \$700,000.

Last year's SSMU executives planned on funding the renovations with monies derived from an exclusive cold beverage agreement with Coca-Cola. When the student body voted against the deal, the Students' Society was left to scramble for an alternative source of funding. A bank loan was eventually hammered out. McGill decided to seek added protection should SSMU default on the loan, demanding that it be clearly spelled out that the Shatner renovations are a one-time project taking place solely under the auspices of the Students' Society.

"We had to make clear that this project was stand-alone in terms of the entire scale of renovations and so we haggled about wording for a couple of weeks," said Baraniak.

"Unfortunately that was during exam

time and everybody was busy and VP Yalovsky was also signing the Contrat de Performance [with the Quebec government] so everything was stalled. We told them we had to go, we had to go and they said, no, we've got to get this out of the way."

Morty Yalovsky, McGill's Vice-Principal of Administration and Finance, does not see the university as the party responsible for the latest delay in the Shatner renovations, pointing out that a contractor had not even been secured until recently.

"Renovations to the Center were to proceed in two phases," said Yalovsky. The first phase involved the rebuilding and redesign of the cafeteria on Shatner's second floor. "The plans for phase two renovations were approved by the University in the fall and the project went out for tender in October. A contractor was identified in the beginning of December and hired by the University. Meanwhile, discussions between the SSMU and the University over the terms of payment for phase two concluded in December."

Although a deal has now been signed with a contractor, there will still be a time lag before the construction can get underway. The needed equipment and drywall take about six weeks to arrive after ordered, and the renovations will only be

able to be started in early February. Regardless of the exact date when the construction work begins, predictions made by SSMU's lawyer, Jon Feldman, during the lawsuit with the Daily will not come to fruition. Feldman repeatedly said that as soon as the lease dispute with the newspaper could be resolved, the Students' Society would be ready to bring the jackhammers into Shatner.

"Those were comments made to a judge," said Baraniak. "We were ready to go, everything was in place, but we're not about to go and sign a \$700,000 contract with the possibility that we don't have legal rights to break down the walls... I wouldn't place too much emphasis on those comments."

The Red Herring, McGill's humour magazine, is one tenant in the basement of Shatner that has not been satisfied with the manner in which SSMU has dealt with the renovations. D.J. Waletzky, the Herring's editor, is not surprised that the construction schedule was fallen so far behind, and calls the Students' Society "completely incompetent."

Waletzky was informed by SSMU in first semester that the magazine's office would be demolished and that it would have to be vacated, even though arrange-



Brie O'Keefe

Students' dollars put to work, but only after months of delays

ments with contractors had yet to be made. He found out only this past week that the office will no longer be destroyed and that the Red Herring is allowed to resume occupancy.

"We lost a semester's worth of the office," said Waletzky, who does not think that most students would have been willing to bankroll the Shatner facelift if given the option.

"As a student, I think this has been a tremendous waste of money."

China Frees Jailed Canadian Prof

But human rights advocates say countless Falun Gong practitioners still in prison

BY SEAN CARRIE
News Reporter

Three human rights activists who successfully lobbied for the release of Canadian prof Zhang Kunlun from a Chinese labour camp spoke at McGill on Wednesday.

Zhang became a *cause celebre* when it was learned that the one-time McGill art instructor had been arrested in China for practicing the rituals associated with Falun Gong, a sect banned by the Chinese government in 1999.

But with pressure mounting on Chinese authorities to release Zhang in advance of the Team Canada trade mission to China scheduled for next month, the Beijing government released Zhang on Wednesday. Zhang was believed to be the first Canadian jailed in China for practicing Falun Gong.

Earlier last week, in a visit to McGill, three Montreal-based practitioners of Falun Dafa, a group affiliated with Falun Gong, stressed why it was important that Zhang be released.

"Zhang is absolutely a prisoner of conscience," proclaimed an organizer for the event hosted by McGill's Amnesty International chapter.

The speakers went on to describe the torture that Zhang is believed to have endured during his imprisonment.

And while the Canadian government and human rights advocacy groups all

welcomed Mr. Zhang's release last week, many still view it as little more than a one-time gesture on the part of the Chinese government to improve its image and placate the international human rights community.

Amnesty Canada's John Tackaberry said that "a combination of pressures" had helped bring about Zhang's release, but that China should not be let off the hook for its treatment of Falun Gong practitioners.

Tackaberry said that, in this case, pressure from federal government MPs like McGill law professor Irwin Cotler, as well as campaigning by Zhang Lingdi, Mr. Zhang's daughter who attends the University of Ottawa, had led to Mr. Zhang's release.

But while Amnesty is "of course, very pleased," Tackaberry cautioned that the Chinese government's motives were far from magnanimous. "This was an action to remove an irritant from the agenda [before the Team Canada mission]," he said.

"Our position is that this cannot be used as an excuse not to raise, in a clear and emphatic way, the issue of human rights in China."

"We hope that the media doesn't get distracted from the larger issue. Journalists have a responsibility to continue covering this issue," he said of the Chinese move to release just a single, high-profile prisoner.

"This seems starkly, transparently, a means of pleasing Canada and the Canadian mission when there has been a crackdown and a step-up in arrests," Tackaberry

remarked.

Mr. Zhang had been incarcerated, without trial, at a notorious labour camp some 100 kilometres from the seaside resort city of Qingdao. Zhang, a former Montrealer who taught at McGill in the late 1980s before returning to his native China in 1996, was arrested in July while practicing Falun Gong in a public park. He was subsequently released, but was re-arrested in November and sent to the Shandong number 3 prison in the industrial city of Weifang, Shandong province.

Officials at the Chinese embassy in Ottawa refused to comment on Zhang's release last week, but a prepared statement on the embassy's website made the claim that Mr. Zhang was released because he had "come to a better understanding of the cult nature of Falun Gong and his illegal activities." It also stated that he had "pledged that he would be a law-abiding citizen," and that that pledge was brought about by the government's system of "education through labour."

The Chinese government has arrested untold numbers of Falun Gong members, calling the group a religious doomsday cult. But practitioners and international human rights advocates argue that Falun Gong is simply a form of meditation, like



Sam Gelfman

Human rights advocates spoke at McGill last week about the plight of Falun Gong members jailed in China

Yoga or Tai Chi, and that it preaches virtues like compassion and tolerance. They say the Chinese government's crackdown on Falun Gong amounts to an attack on freedom of expression.

That's why, according to Tackaberry, Amnesty will continue to petition the Canadian government to take a tough stance on China's human rights record.

Tackaberry said he is concerned, however, with what he calls the Canadian government's unwillingness to put human rights before trade agendas like the one that it will take to China next month.

"We will be doing a number of things in advance of the trade mission," Tackaberry said. "We're waiting for the Canadian government to renew their commitment to making sure that they don't

sacrifice principles for the price of profit."

He said that the the Canadian government has a reputation for putting trade objectives before human rights.

"There seems to be a relationship between the amount of trade and the amount of pressure applied by the Canadian government. The more the trade, the less vocal the government is, not just with China, but in places like Indonesia as well. It's a substantial concern," said Tackaberry.

Meanwhile, here at McGill, the campus Amnesty chapter said it also has plans for its own events to raise the profile of the Falun Gong crackdowns, in hopes that the Canadian government will put the matter at the top of its agenda next month in China.

York Strike Ends

School reopens after eleven week deadlock

BY REKA SZEKELY
The Excalibur, Toronto

Striking graduate and teaching assistants reached a tentative agreement with York University's administration early Tuesday morning after a bitter eleven week struggle.

"It's more or less exactly what we were asking for right from the beginning," says Mark Hiller, chief steward for the teaching assistants, one of the three units of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3903. "By judging the mood today, people feel a real sense of victory and it was well worth our energies."

The deal was struck after a forced ratification vote last Friday which only saw one of three bargaining units, the contract faculty, agree to the university's proposal.

The vote was called by the Ontario Ministry of Labour in December and was strongly opposed by the union executive. When both the teaching assistants and graduate assistants rejected the offer the two sides went back to the table for a marathon

bargaining session. They reached an agreement at 7 a.m. on Tuesday.

The two-year agreement includes the much coveted tuition protection for both teaching and graduate assistants. It also establishes a first contract for graduate assistants, including a base pay of \$5,880 for the first year, plus an \$882 signing bonus and \$7,300 in the second year. The university initially offered a base of \$4,500 in October.

All units will receive a two per cent pay raise.

The major issue of contention during the strike was the inclusion of tuition protection for teaching assistants and graduate students, meaning any tuition increases will be met with a dollar-for-dollar rebate. This prevents the university from negating salary raises with tuition hikes.

Hiller says York is the only university in Canada to offer such protection. He said he expects teaching assistants across the country to make similar demands when their contracts come up.

Though no one from the university was

available for comment, president Lorna Marsden called the agreement "great news," in a prepared statement.

"There are no winners this morning except undergraduates. This is their day and it's taken far too long. We are a university with a spirit of tolerance, respect and the patient pursuit of knowledge, and we must immediately return to normal academic life," says Marsden.

Nikhi Puru, a second-year information technology major, is relieved the strike is over. "I actually feel much better. I wanted it to be done," says Puru. Most York students agree, but many worry about the lost time.

"I'm relieved, but I'm still angry about the whole thing," says Emily Falls, a first-year music major. "I'm feeling pretty stressed out now because of all the stuff we're going to have to catch up on now."

The term resumed on Friday and will continue until Feb. 12. Students will write fall exams from Feb. 13 to 23. The winter term will begin on Feb. 26 and go until May 11.

-with files from Dan Verbin

McGill Residence Wins Eco-Award

Building on Macdonald Campus rebuilt with ecofriendly design

BY CAROLYN LEFEBVRE AND ALEX SADARI
News Writers

The EcoResidence building at Macdonald Campus has won the prestigious 2000 Prix d'excellence for a multi-dwelling residence from l'ordre des architectes du Quebec.

The crumbling Robertson Terrace student residence building was renovated and modified to include environmentally friendly aspects such as greenhouse balconies, a slanted roof for solar heating, and the use of recycled paper and borax for insulation. The renovations were carried out primarily using recycled materials and few polyvinyl chlorides (PVCs).

The prize was awarded to both the architects Danny Pearl and Mark Poddubiuk, and to the Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Deborah Buszard, who contracted Pearl after a student suggested the idea of building an ecological living group at McGill. Pearl, a McGill architecture graduate, and Poddubiuk are the founders of L'OEUF (L'Office de l'eclectisme urbain et fonctionnel), an environmentally and socially minded architecture firm.

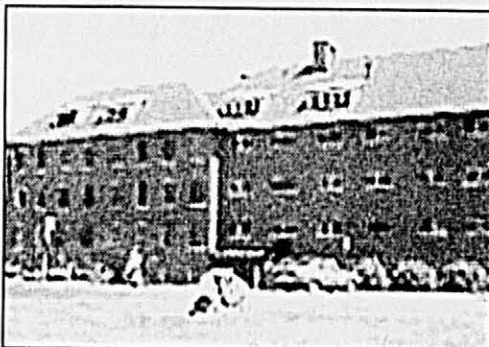
The prix d'excellence is awarded by l'ordre des architectes du Quebec every other year to both the architect and the client of exceptional works that promote the goal of environmental protection, thus serving the well-being of society. The different categories include: institutional architecture, industrial architecture, commercial architecture, residential and multi-dwelling architecture, urban design, and conservational architecture.

Pearl feels his design won the award

because his peers recognized the inherent difficulty in this type of project. "This is a very difficult context in which to do something innovative. Universities have a lot of bureaucracy and it's tough to get through especially in this type of project where nothing is guaranteed. It is much more complicated than simply building from scratch and it's harder to come up with solutions. It can be extremely exhausting and architects understand these issues." Pearl is glad to have worked on the project, adding that it generates "discussion and debate among students and that's how we like to teach."

The dilapidated residence was reconstructed with recycled material, and an effort was made to avoid the use of materials that contain PVCs, which are known to release toxic chemicals into the atmosphere. Environmental features include huge overhangs on the roof that trap air and help keep the building cool in the summer and warm in the winter. The roof's design also allows it to collect rainwater which can be filtered and eventually used as part of the building's water supply. The new building has increased insulation by placing recycled paper and borax in its attic spaces, and through the construction of windows with components which increase airtightness.

Among the other ecofriendly features are the greenhouses along the front balconies that help to heat the house, in addition to providing a space for students to grow plants



Newly-renovated Robertson Terrace

for research. The airtight greenhouse windows trap the sun's energy which is absorbed by the outer brick of the building, and that air gets radiated into the house.

Brian Sarwer-Foner, a second-year PhD student and member of the Committee for Greening McGill, thinks that the award will generate positive publicity for the project, and will help raise awareness about the importance of thinking green.

"It is a great initiative to try to have an ecological approach to living for students. It also helps with the suggestion for ecological building in McGill's proposed environmental policy," he said.

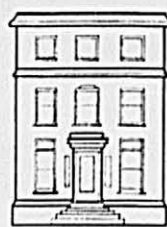
"The ecoresidence should be used as a model for future McGill buildings," Sarwer-Foner added.

Pearl and Poddubiuk are currently working on a long-term project to restore what remains of Benny Farm, a housing project built for veterans in 1947, a massive effort that is in line with the firm's social and ecological priorities. The two have gone beyond traditional architecture, bringing a social activist perspective to their work. Pearl hopes the Benny Farm project will be able to provide affordable and accessible housing for different groups.

Owen Egon, The McGill Reporter

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**Vice-Principal
(Research)**

In light of the planned retirement of Professor Pierre Bélanger, an Advisory Committee has been struck with respect to the selection of a new Vice-Principal (Research).

In order to assist in its deliberations, the Advisory Committee would welcome nominations from members of the McGill community of individuals believed to be appropriate candidates for this position.

All nominations will be treated in the strictest confidence by the Committee, and they should be addressed to:

**Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Principal
McGill University
845 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, QC H3A 2T5**

Safety of Women at Faculty Carnivals Questioned

BY JAMIE KIRZNER-ROBERTS AND CRISTINA CAMPISI
The McGill Daily

Excessive drinking and eroticized events at Faculty Carnivals make for a potentially unsafe environment, says Sexual Assault Centre of McGill University spokesperson Sarah Curry.

Last week's Science Carnival included a "booty camp," a vomiting competition, erotic ice sculptures and skits which featured simulated oral sex.

"I think combining an alcohol-oriented event with eroticized activities promotes an atmosphere that doesn't feel safe to all participants, and perhaps it isn't safe," said Curry.

"I think there is a clear connection between alcohol and sexual assault and without coordinators controlling the function and making it safe for everyone involved, definitely this scenario can be dangerous and can lead to violent incidences."

But Arif Chowdhury, President of

Science Undergraduate Society, which organized the event, says that there was nothing unsafe about the environment at the Carnival.

"All the participants know what the event is like. None of the people that go into it have any misconceptions about what it is and what it has been in previous years," he said.

"I think that participants were enthusiastic and this shows that they didn't feel uncomfortable."

Over the last number of years, there have been many complaints about violent incidents and harassment which have occurred during Winter Carnivals. In 1997 for example, Management Carnival team captains led drinking songs which glorified rape. A number of complaints were received that year by the Sexual Assault Centre, which lobbied the Management Undergraduate Society to take action.

"Concerns regarding the names of teams, skits, and lip syncs which were less than acceptable were first brought to the

attention of MUS by the Sexual Assault Centre in 1997 and since then radical changes have been made," said Jeanette Langdon, VP Communication of Management Undergraduate Society. "This was a wake-up call for MUS, and since then, we have begun to really turn things around." MUS Carnival captains are now given special training and guidelines to follow to ensure that they create a safe and comfortable environment for all those who attend the carnival. Members of the carnival-organizing committee have also been trained by Sexual Assault Centre.

Curry would like to see the Science Undergraduate Society take the same steps in order to ensure the safety of women at SUS events.

But Chowdhury says that while he is open to the idea of sexual-assault prevention training for Carnival leaders, he does not think that it is feasible.

"I don't really know who would be trained," he said. "Carnival is just a bunch of people going around."

Fighting the World Bank in Nepal

BY ZACH DUBINSKY
The McGill Daily

An international team that travelled to remote Nepal in 1995 campaigning against a World Bank megaproject met with adversity; the author of a new book about the trip recounted last Friday. But in the end they still succeeded in persuading locals to voice their fears about the controversial hydro-electric dam proposal, Montreal native Anna Paskal told an audience at McGill's Centre for Developing Studies.

Paskal related how she and a team of 30 activists, journalists, and documentary makers bribed village officials, lugged a 20-inch television set and power generators through the Himalayas, and ran into a "political minefield" during the two-month-long expedition. Her experience forms the subject of her recent book, *The Water Gods: The Inside Story of a World Bank Project in Nepal*.

By end of the excursion to Nepal's remote north-eastern Arun river valley – at two kilometres, it is the deepest valley in the world – Paskal and company had spoken to thousands of natives from the region's four indigenous tribes about a contentious \$764-million (US) proposal to build a hydro-electric dam on the river.

The Arun III dam was conceived in the 1980s as a way to modernize the country of nearly 25 million – only one-fifth of whom have access to electricity – and create conditions favourable to international investment, Paskal said. It was to be partially financed by \$170-million (US) in loans from the World Bank.

The proposal sparked a worldwide retort from environmentalists, native-rights activists, and development economists, who argued the project would displace thousands of local inhabitants, provide little real benefit to Nepalese citizens, and destroy habitat that hosts over 100

threatened and endangered species. The chorus of protests included Canadian aboriginal activists campaigning against the James Bay hydro-electric project.

Paskal said the project was big news in the capital, Kathmandu, when she arrived in early 1995.

"When we got there, this was the thing, everyone was talking about it," she told an audience at McGill's Centre for Developing Studies.

But in the valley's outlying rural settlements – home to 450,000 indigenous Sherpa, Rai, and Tamang, among others – information about the dam was scarce, she said.

"Very few people have gone to the valley, very few people have talked to the [indigenous] people to tell them about how their lives are going to change."

Her expedition tried to do just that, Paskal said, by showing groups of valley inhabitants a video about other contentious hydro-electric dams in the world, and then opening the floor to questions and discussion. Some Nepalese travelled for an entire day just to attend a screening, she said.

And while at first audiences remained taciturn, gradually people started to speak out about their fears over the dam.

"You said what was in my heart: we need to protect our land," Paskal remem-

bered one man saying.

And she recalled a local shaman lamenting, "If the river goes through many changes, it will give us pain. People will get sick with headaches, diarrhea, and fever."

None of which really surprised Paskal.

"Development projects often cause quite a stir in the local country, but this one was off the scale because of the ramifications it would have for the country," she said. She said the Arun dam would have cost nearly twice the Nepalese government's entire annual budget.

Because of wrenching political change in the Himalayan country, the dam didn't get the go-ahead from the government until 1995 – on the very day Paskal returned from her trek. The World Bank eventually cancelled the project before its construction started, after the release of a scathing independent review of the dam proposal.

But Paskal warned that the project could go ahead without the bank after the Nepalese government penned a deal with an American company in July of last year.

Paskal, who was a 22-year-old undergraduate at Hampshire College in Massachusetts at the time of her trip, is the daughter of Montreal author Merrill Weissbord. Her book was published late last year by Véhicule Press.

Queer McGill

seeks individuals to fill the roles of:
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Vote will be Wed., Jan. 24

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Office, Shatner 416. All welcome to attend and nominate. All McGill students welcome to vote and to run for positions. Call 398-2106 for info.

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(the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society)

This winter we are looking for dedicated, caring volunteers for one branch of the Sexual Assault Centre.

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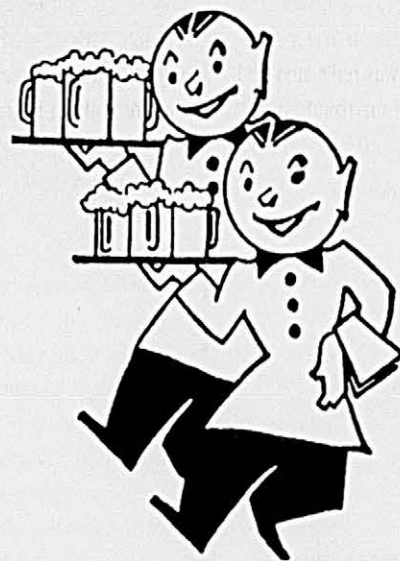
If you are open-minded, a good listener, and you care about sexual assault at McGill and beyond, please come to one of our information sessions to find out how you can volunteer.

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THE MCGILL DAILY

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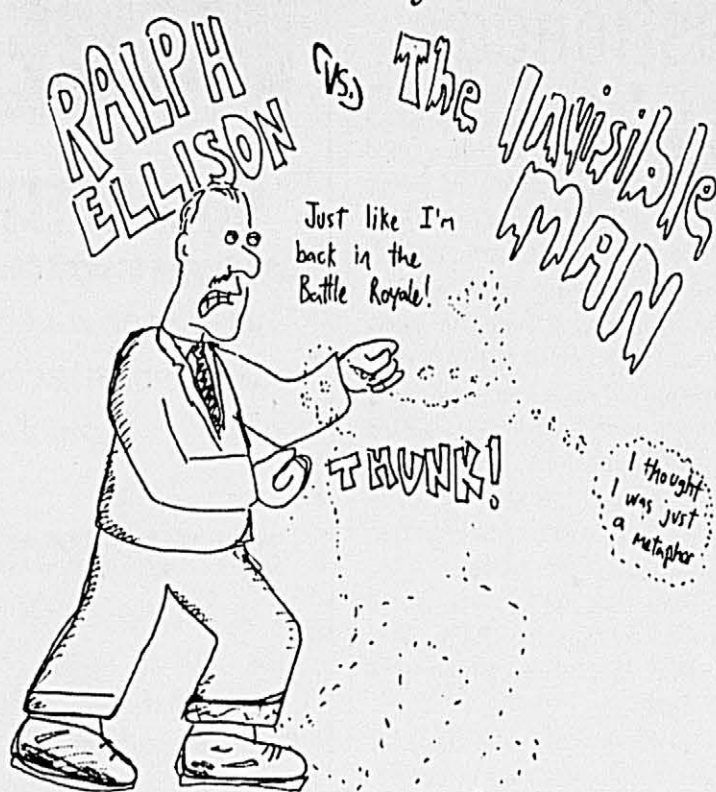
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TITANS OF LITERATURE VS. FAMOUS
MOVIE MONSTERS by Steve Barker

letters



THE REAL VIOLENT EXTREMISTS

In his bizarre and unconscionable defense of anti-Semitism ("Attack on Michaud Was Clearly Politically Motivated," Letter, Jan. 8), Quesnel makes passing mention to CSIS "linking" ARA to the firebombing of the home of Ernst Zundel, Canada's most notorious Holocaust denier. What he omits is that the CSIS agents who made this allegation during an interview with a renowned racist (who videotaped the conversation) were later reprimanded by the Security Intelligence Review Commission (SIRC) for making unfounded allegations against ARA. CSIS itself received harsh criticism for this incident from the CSIS watchdog committee.

Strange that Quesnel dug up this misinformation, often reshaped by racist extremist websites, yet somehow failed to read the national headlines made by SIRC's wrist-slapping of CSIS for the incident ("Spies slapped for 'slander': CSIS agents wrongly accused anti-racism group of firebombing home," Jim Bronskill, The Ottawa Citizen, Nov. 22, 1999, for example). It is sadly ironic that Quesnel's letter appeared in The Daily on the same day that ARA members were at the Palais de Justice supporting the friends and family of Christian Thomas. Thomas was beaten to death by up to ten Montreal neo-Nazis this past summer. Adam Guerbuez, one of the three charged with the heinous crime, is

an associate of one of the racist front groups Quesnel himself allegedly has links to. To find the real violent extremists in Canada, Quesnel would do well to take the blinders off and have a good look at some of the people and groups he associates with.

Geoffrey Beaumont
U3 Anthropology

GRIEVOUS ERROR RECTIFIED

One would think that a high level co-ordinating editor such as Ben Errett would have enough experience to check his facts before allowing his prejudices to shine through. U of T also has a thirteen week semester. Just because McGill students start one half-week earlier does not merit the whiny page 6 rant in your Jan. 8 issue.

Rachel G. Geddy
MSc2 Biology

[Editor's Note - Because of this egregious error, Errett has been demoted to a mid level co-ordinating editor. As well, he has been taken out back and flogged.]

FAUCET DRIPS TO NEW LOW

Unrelenting in its attempts to put sticks in the spokes of evolution, the Plumber's Faucet (the official Engineering Undergraduate Society newspaper) sunk to a new low with its final issue of last semester. While most students in the engineering faculty (myself included) have come to expect little else than inept socio-cultural and political commentary from the editors and contributors of the witless rag, even such meagre expectations proved to be too much. Opposite an article written in commemoration of the December 6th mas-

Slibel & Lander

Take us to
L.A. with
you, LuLu!

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

Slibel's back from sabbatical and ready to dole out the hot smack on what's smouldering in the subconscious of this once-great university. First off, the rumour that Kevin McPhee met his girlfriend at a Young Tories conference. Ah, geek love. What's more surprising here: the fact that it was at a PC conference or the fact that Kevin McPhee has a girlfriend? Slibel knows: the fact that Shatner renovations that were supposed to begin in December won't actually begin until February. Did somebody say **McBungle**?... Ever wonder why the only place you ever see anyone reading Maclean's is in hospital waiting rooms? Slibel's got a clue. The intrepid editors of the newsweekly called this paper to ask what was hot and what was not on campus. Of course, we told them that **sex, drugs and argyle socks** were everywhere on campus, while abstinence and **bungling renovations** were not. When the fact-checker called, she had clearly talked to average students who were really in the know. For instance, did you know that **course evaluations are really hot**? Yes, that's what those people were talking about at the Bifteck last Friday. Oh, and the 24 hour study space is really hot, as is the new Shatner cafeteria. Note to SSMU execs: when shamelessly promoting your own projects (**bungle**), why not pick ones you've actually done?...On the subject of campus food, the manager of **Tiki Ming** paid a visit to The Daily office late last year to complain about a review of his "Chinese" restaurant. Instead of offering us food, he chose the edgier tactic of simply explaining at excessive length how good

his food was. Slibel thought this was all well and good, but warns readers that the General Tao's chicken appears to be nothing more than a **crusty, deep-fried piece of dough**. Though the open flames are certainly nice and would make it a good place to film a **Poison video**, Slibel will stick to the wholesome fare at Architecture Café.... Stephané Dion will be popping by Moot Court (conveniently located near The Daily's new offices in Chancellor Day Hall) on Wednesday, and he will be following what has become something of a tradition for the Intergovernmental Affairs Minister when he pays a visit to McGill. He usually throws a temper tantrum when his aides forget to remove all the red M&M's from the package, throws furniture around, and then gets shamelessly drunk and dances on tables at the Peel Pub.

ON TRACK ON CRACK

ON TRACK: Ed Broadbent. The NDP workhorse and visiting McGill prof can't seem to go a day without appearing in the paper. Plus, his lifestyle magazine, provocatively titled Ed, is outselling Wallpaper and Oprah's magazine combined at Montreal newsstands.

ON CRACK: Montreal Drivers in Winter. Hey, what are those funny yellow stripes on Peel? Could it be a crosswalk?

DEBATABLE: Ed Broadbent driving in Montreal in Winter. This one's too close to call.

sacre at Polytechnique, read an editorial titled "Earth Girls Are Easy" which attempted to explain the female gender to "guys [who] wanna have sex." According to the article, which broke women down into a variety of ridiculous categories, "Nobody wants fat women... Yet, with so little attention paid to them, they'll crumble under any attention." "Women with weird smells...nobody in their right mind would want to stuff that turkey, which makes it the perfect target for an easy kill." "Strippers...you know what she looks like naked...that's all that counts right?" Among the other categories were "skinny women," "cheap ho's" [sic] and "buck-toothed women" [sic].

Not quite content with the nauseating level of misogyny already contained in the newspaper, it was apparently necessary for the editors to refer to feces as "little

Huxtables" in a 'satirical' letter to the editor. When I asked an editor about the xenophobic 'articles' in the newspaper, he responded that "...we slagged skinny women too" and that "it's the Faucet so we can write whatever we want." Indeed, I support their right to print whatever they please; however, I also deemed it necessary to respond to their ignorance and prejudice because it deserves to be noted that there is at least one engineering student who thinks such rhetoric is as embarrassing as it is repugnant.

Philippe Gohier
U3 Civil Engineering

Your letters and Hyde Parks are always welcome on the Commentary Pages. Send them to us at letters@mcgilldaily.com

THE MCGILL DAILY
is dropping writs
like they're going
out of style!

The Daily will be holding elections for Coordinating Culture Editor and two Culture Editors on Wednesday, January 24th at 5:30 in Chancellor Day Hall Room 620. To run, you must be a McGill student and Daily staff. Staff is anyone

who has contributed 6 stories, photos or production nights, or 12 hours of other newspaper-related duties, or any combination thereof. Offer not valid in states ending in Z or Q. Please consult your doctor before taking this position.



"You can't forge a revolution without breaking some balls"
-Janice "Girlbomb" Erlbaum

Or can you.

"I just don't like the idea of being blamed all the time for something that I had nothing to do with," an ex-boyfriend once asserted. Since I knew I would run into walls asking him if he wanted to bet on his utter uninvolvedness in the patriarchy, I simply replied: "I love it how you think feminism is all about you." This was one of the last times the coveted F-word came up in our conversation- that is, before I decided that it was not a topic I could pursue with him if we wanted a healthy relationship (to oversimplify things, hence the break-up).

More recently, I caught another male friend off guard while expressing his hatred for Gloria Steinem. When I asked him why he hated feminists, he said to me: "Well if you're always going around professing that men are scum, chances are men aren't going to like you."

Goddess knows I'd like to counter such criticisms of my beloved movement by proving that the word "feminist" is in no way synonymous with "man-hater"- to reveal that it is all a myth, and better yet, a patriarchal construction aiming to prove that the women's movement is essentially all about men. However, this is only partly correct. Though explicitly man-hating sentiments are few and far between within feminist activism or theory, the truth is that they are not entirely absent.

Take well known feminist writer Andrea Dworkin for example, whose advances in the field are often overshadowed by sweeping statements such as this one, which was made at a Take Back The Night rally:

"Men Use the night to erase us... The annihilation of a woman's personality, individuality, will, character, is prerequisite to male sexuality..."

Then there is Mary Daly, who opted to resign from her post at Boston College rather than allow male students into her feminist theory courses. She summarizes her reasoning as follows:

"Even if there were only one or two men with twenty women, the young women would be constantly on an overt or subliminal level giving their attention to the men because they've been socialized to nurse men."

Valerie Solanas, who came upon her 15 minutes of fame when she shot Andy Warhol in 1968, is also tagged a feminist, and adds in her S.C.U.M. (Society for Cutting up Men) Manifesto, that,

"The male is completely egocentric, trapped inside himself, incapable of empathizing or identifying with others, or love, friendship, affection or tenderness..."

What's my point? Why am I even repeating this? What eventually happens

with quotes such as these is that both right wing and internal thorns such as Kaitie Roiphe take them out of context and have a field day. For example, the Dworkin quote above is brought to you direct from *The Morning After*, Roiphe's one woman crusade to prove that because we are a society obsessed with consent, most date rape doesn't really happen.

As a general comment on the detriments of philosophies such as that of Mary Daly, who was also known to refuse to take questions from men during her lectures, I should note that I'm taking my first course in feminist theory here this semester... (no, academia hasn't quelled my interest in the subject matter quite yet)... and in a class composed entirely of women, I see little evidence of students who are liberated from this social obligation to "nurse men." Quite to the contrary, most of us are so afraid of being categorized into this sect of man-hating feminism, that our opinions surrounding any inequities all too often come complete with preambles such as: "I could be wrong, but..." or "I'll just make the shallow comment that..." etc.

Basically, it is not the presence of men

that shuts women up, or makes them equivocate their remarks to avoid outright confrontation. Turning against men becomes much easier than confronting one's own insecurities, in fact becomes a reaction to those insecurities. But can they be resolved in this way? Feminism will never be a truly common movement unless it moves away from the mentality of search-and-destroy, targeting the causes of oppression, and takes on the task of dealing directly with the effects, within women's minds and self-images, of a quiet and systemic oppression.

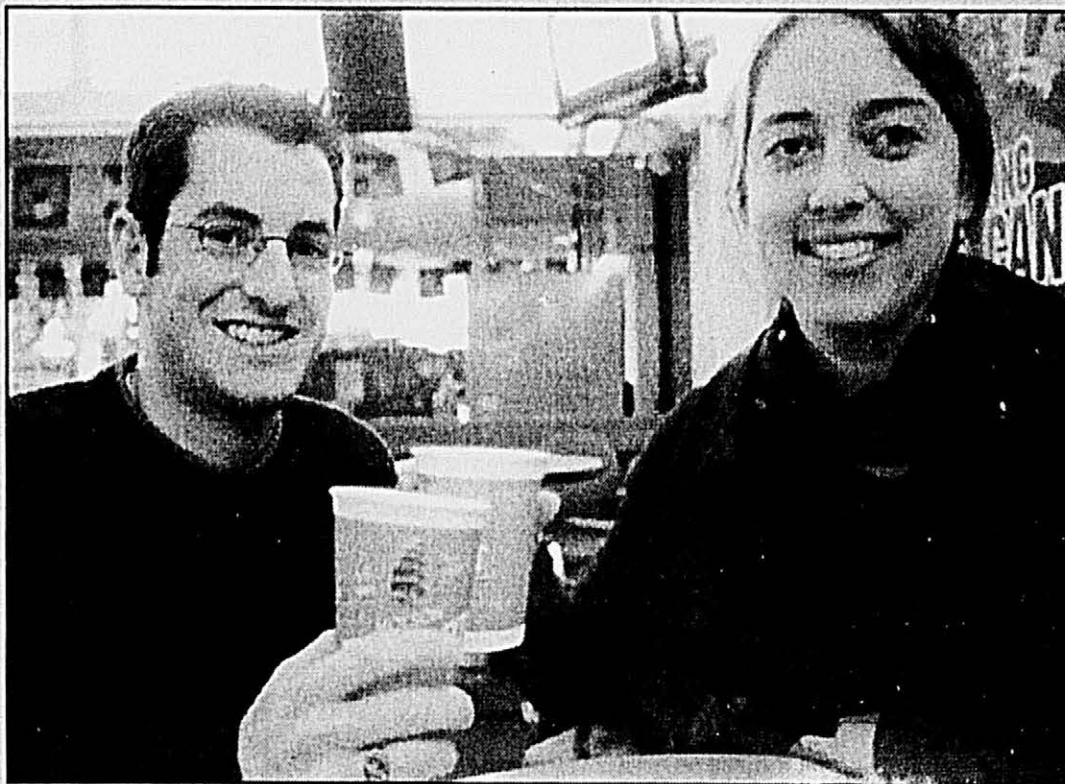
Some feminists blame the man-hating element for the presently divisive nature of the women's movement. Naomi Wolf argues that: "These important theories marked a turning point at which many otherwise supportive women signed off in disgust," and a mainstream columnist once wrote: "By the seventies an astonishing rhetoric had developed about the wicked penis and the male as rapist... This is when ordinary feminists started to preface everything by saying, 'I'm not a feminist, but...' and to follow a separate path, or rather many different paths."

Examining some origins of the gen-

eralization should aid in overcoming them and in turn to accomplish our goals without damaging our reputation or alienating others. Daly's brand of male bashing is a classic case of discrimination and misplaced blame. Solanas has advocated killing men, so it's a wonder her words have been taken so seriously throughout the years. And as for Dworkin, I suggest more therapy (it works), and perhaps less adherence to metaphors which are apt to be taken literally. On this level, it's easy to see that man-haters have much in common with woman-haters (in conception, if not in reception, being that a man-hater did not win- nor could she ever have won- The Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954, as Hemingway did.)

To classify oneself as a non-man-hating-feminist is not simply to employ disclaimers such as: "Well I don't hate men, but..." but to move toward less shallow evaluations of our individual place within a movement that has traditionally carried with it a deeply rooted resentment of the other sex, and recognize the depth of the problem. For simply put, all stereotypical hatred is shallow.

CAMPUS EYE by Brie O'Keefe



Daily Co-ordinating News Editor Jaime Kirzner-Roberts bet SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee last summer that the student daycare in Shatner wouldn't be up and running by the beginning of January. McPhee said that The Daily could not possibly relocate into the daycare space because its arrival was imminent. The above picture shows McPhee buying her a beer. Your fees are still paying for the non-existent daycare.

Write for THE MCGILL DAILY

News Meetings:
MONDAYS 4:00

Culture Meetings:
TUESDAYS 4:00 PM

Mind&Body Meetings:
TUESDAYS 4:30 PM

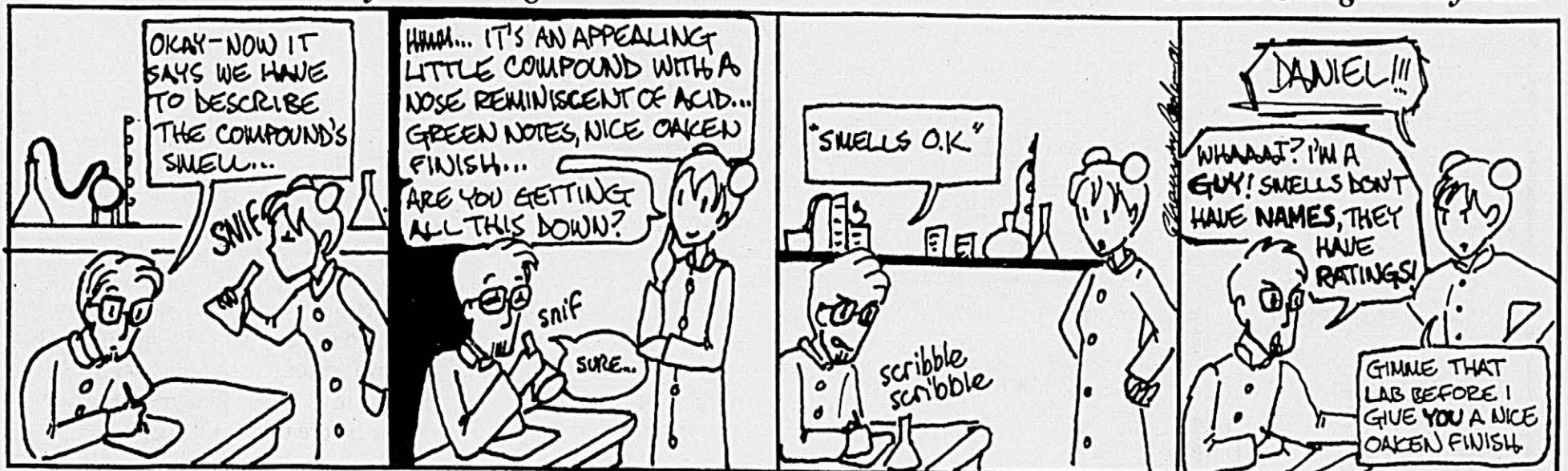
Photo Meetings:
TUESDAYS 5 PM

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THURSDAY, JAN. 18 6PM
IN THE DAILY OFFICE

EVERYONE WELCOME!
MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD IN
THE SHATNER CAFETERIA

APATHY RALLY by Channing Rodman

comics@mcgilldaily.com



SCRAWLS by Sherwin Tjia



Why the h-e-double-hockey-sticks doesn't McGill have a Fine Arts program? This is what a bunch of Daily editors were discussing the other night over Peak Freans and Earl Grey tea. We decided that we're not going to wait around for the inertia-riddled administration to start one up. That's we're launching The McGill Daily School of Fine Arts. It starts here and now. Remember where you were when you read this; your kids will surely ask you about it. The first stage in our diploma-granting program is Scrawls. We decided to start here because of the very nature of this feature. It will be a forum for McGill artists to share their sketchbook pages – the first stages of the creative process. Bring your germs of ideas to The Daily's office in Chancellor Day 620, and we'll scan 'em in and print them in this space. For more information or to comment on this block-rockin' initiative, email us at

scrawls@mcgilldaily.com

THE ART DUMMY

Church, Chuckles and Christ

My New Year's resolutions can eat yours alive

BY JOHN ORTYED
The Art Dummy

I won't bore you with how my New Year's went or bother asking the same of you, let's just smile and agree that white people sure look funny when they dance and the old saying, "you can't get pregnant on New Year's" is a damned lie.

I seldom make promises and hardly ever keep them, so New Year's resolutions have never been my thing, but I gave it a shot this year, you know, because of all that stuff I said about Jesus and his dad. Well, I'm making amends. That's right; from now on my days will be filled with church, chuckles and Christ. You will find me only at classes, the library, or in the school chapel, wherever it may be and if we have one.

The Tuesday night orgies of food, frolicking and fruit smoothies will continue. (a mandatory "or else.")

The truth of the matter is, a resolution on New Year's is like 'quitting' smoking, an act of cowardice that reveals itself in its temporary nature. People are never 'quitting', you either smoke, or you've quit. It's like swallowing; there is no in-between and if you try to find one, you'll only choke. Saying to yourself, "I'm going to try and eat less chocolate," is as effective as a city approaching Juan Antonio Samaranch without at very least a pot of gold as offering*. If you want to make changes in your life, make them. Don't pick a date and announce them. Waiting for an excuse like Jan. 1 to declare your minimal, but important-to-you improvements is an unnecessary lie, unless, that is, you're willing to put something on the line. Oh yes, there should be consequences and repercussions. All New Year's resolutions should be followed

by something like the following:

- I am going to swear less....or else you can have two of my children.
- I am going to be a better grandson...or else grandma gets one of my kidneys.
- I will eat less fatty foods....or else you can take any weight I gain in flesh that will eventually be sewn together to make a bathmat.

Then again, who am I to say you can't keep your resolutions, weirder things are happening. Evidence from Down Under is showing holes in our theory of evolution and it turns out we all might not be cut from the same cloth after all. But there are no more surprises, unless they're on Friends or CNN. And that's when it hits, when we least expect it; the end is nigh. All Canadians will take pride in their British roots once America takes a back seat to the New Empire. New York is the past, London the future.

Most ignore my fanaticism and rack it up to illogical suspicion. Personally, I find that enveloping myself in layers of paranoia is in a weird way comforting. Have you ever wondered if someone is listening in on your phone conversations? I do, all the time. So I periodically scream things into the receiver.

- I know it's you. You're dead.
- Get off the phone, you animal.

My mother has stopped calling me.

* Check out Allan Fotheringham's column on the back page of the September 11 Maclean's for a delicious little spiel on Toronto's hubris in bidding against Beijing and other world class metropolitan centers for 2008.

Helping save lives

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Canada



Location: Faculty Club, Main Lounge

Date: January 23/01

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

{Now it gets interesting.}



Dave Ramsay
Joined Accenture April, 1999

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Subject: Free food!

Date: Wed, 3 Jan 2001 14:32:20

From: "Dave Ramsay" <dramsay@accenture.com>

To: "Cara Beth Lowell" <carabeth@university.ca>

Hey Cara,

Have you seen the posters yet? Accenture is doing an on-campus event at your school this month. You should really come out and meet some of our consultants. There are a lot of big changes here -- you probably already know about the name change from Andersen Consulting. I know we have many positions available -- all across Canada. Accenture is a great place to work, I think you'd really fit in here. Anyway, the event should be really good, and they're going to have free food and drink, so you really have no excuses. Write me and let me know how the event goes!

Dave

-

Dave Ramsay

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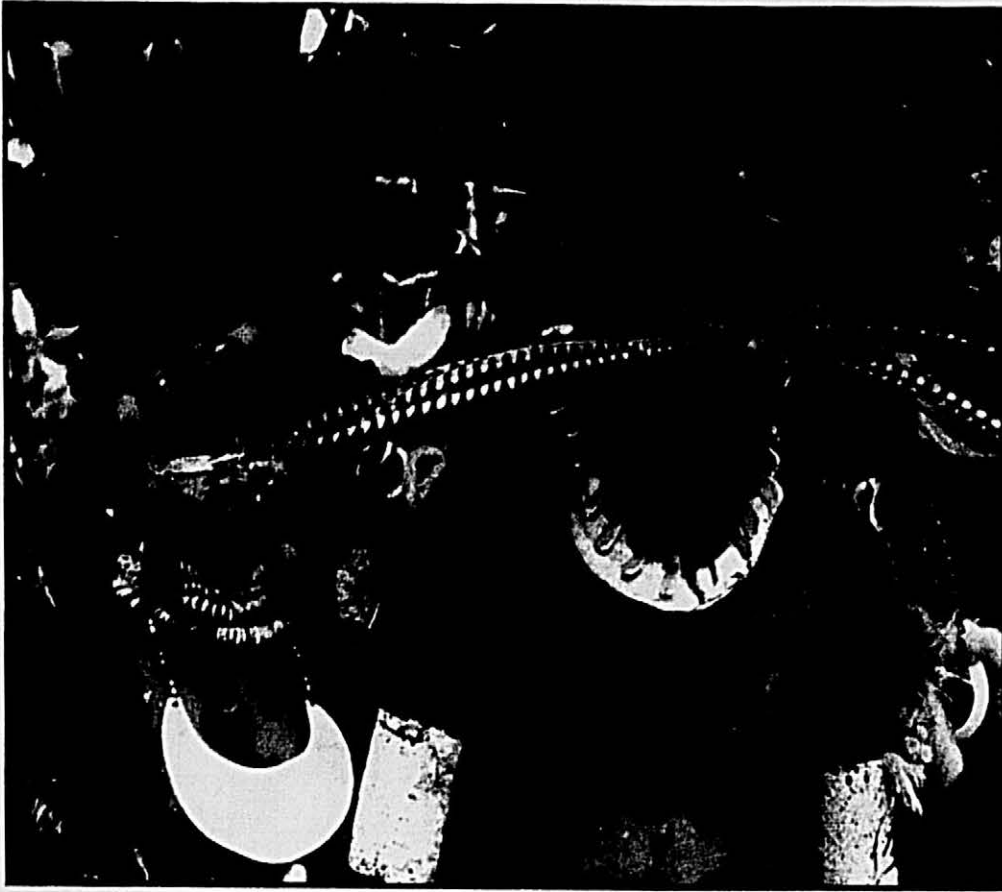
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accenture

Take a Walk on the Wild Side: Papua New Guinea

BY BRETT STORY

Originally called Ilhas dos Papuas (Land of the fuzzy-haired people), Papua New Guinea and its inhabitants are still an enigma to most of the world – cannibals and headhunters still being the most commonly conjured images. But at the Goroka Show, one of the largest cultural events or “sing sings” in PNG, the astounding extent of this country’s human diversity become realized in an intoxicating three day display of cultures, costume, music and art. Overcome by a visual montage of penis gourds and boar tusks, I finally just let myself be swept away by the aesthetic magnificence of it all, danced a bit with the mud men, and took a few photos.





JANUARY 15, 2001

FUN FACT ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

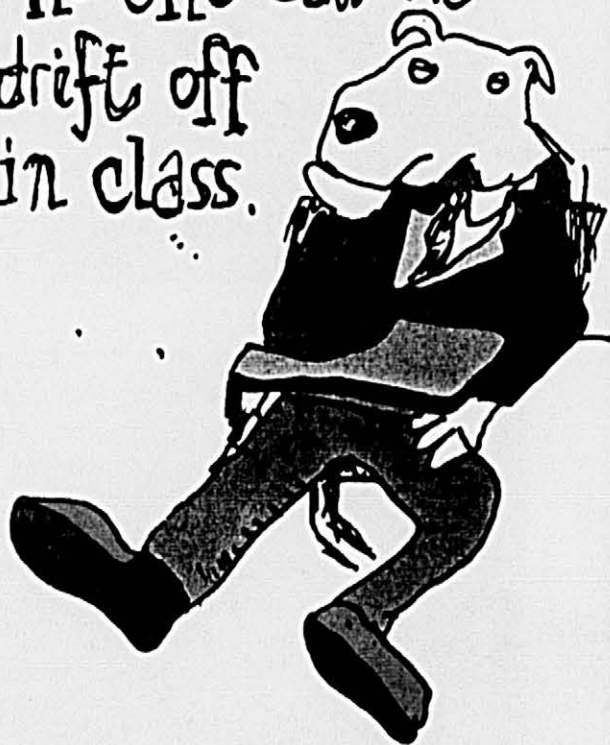
W.E. Gladstone Murray did a lot of stupendous things in his day, and most of the time he wasn't afraid to take a little credit where it was due. But he was a little less quick to take credit for some of the stuff he messed up. For instance, he created a race of androids that shot fire out of their steely red eyes and laid waste to the city of Cleveland. Do we ever hear about that? Nooo. And you know how everyone says Amelia Earhart got lost? Ever think that maybe someone accidentally released a pteradactyl, from the glacier in which it had been frozen for eons, on his summer jaunt to Baffin Island? No? Isn't that a little bit too convenient? And how about hangnails? Do you think those invented themselves?



*the lies i tell
myself in the course of an
average DAY.*

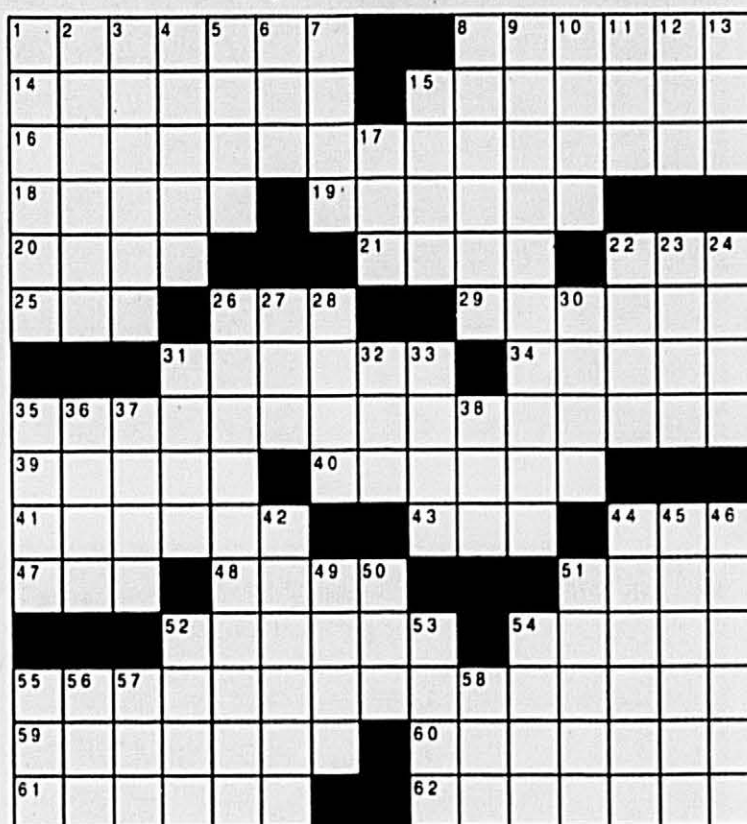
BY STEVE BARKER

*no one saw me
drift off
in class.*



*buying that huge
gleaming espresso
machine would make me
truly happy.*

MANGLED MOVIES

BY JANE VOSE, *The McGill Daily*

Across:

1. Puts to Sleep
8. Casual wear
14. 1.6 Kilometres, roughly
15. Greenwich Village or the Plateau
16. Movie about a mechanical ape?
18. What happens when it rains
19. Enemy of snowboarders
20. A razor has one
21. Folder in your email account
22. Type of cycle or brow
25. Bad grade
26. Baseball stat.
29. What you do to ice
31. Refugees
34. Type of ink
35. Movie about a Texas stockade?
39. _____ Teenage Riot
40. Theatre in Mile End
41. Hicks
43. Is, formerly
44. Projecting arm of a crane
47. Pete Townsend could do it for miles and miles
48. Lotion ingredient
51. Tropical asian plant
52. Bouquets
54. McLouse's kids
55. A movie about brave lumberjacks?
59. Old Protestant
60. White noise?
61. Town in New Jersey
62. Skirmishes

11. "_____ a Believer"

12. Follow it with "Tin Tin"
13. Schoolyard game
15. Daily Photo Editor
17. Gives thumbs up to
22. French Twist, eg.
23. Film with hardboiled cops and hookers with hearts of gold
24. "Honey, I'll be _____ six."
26. Invigorate
27. To free from
28. Apple additive
30. Stand in a mall, briefly
31. French verb
32. Inventor of the cotton gin
33. Popular Coco Rico side dish
35. No votes
36. Native of the Missouri River Valley
37. You do it over hot coals
38. Pie _____ mode
42. "Morning in America" was Reagan's
44. Quantity of lard
45. City in California
46. Where bulletins are posted
49. 1976 demon movie
50. Water in Nice
51. Fortune-telling card
52. Like the desert
53. Give the cold shoulder
54. _____ we forget
55. Army rank, abbr.
56. The losing side in 1995
57. Ash receptacle
58. Genetic material

Down:

1. Cleaned
2. To write HTML
3. Downpour
4. What happens when the moon hits your eye?
5. Muscle contraction
6. Wapiti
7. Makes a hem
8. Subway fares
9. The Booker Prize has them each year
10. Not his



Good To The Last Drop

At Cafe Campus, "rock star" is distinctively defined

BY CHRIS WHIBBS
The McGill Daily

Not knowing any Caféine songs, and only vaguely recalling some good buzz that surrounded them at last year's NXNE festival in Toronto, I ventured into Cafe Campus on Wednesday, January 10 without a clue of what would occur. From the press photos and write-ups I had an inclination that the lead singer, Xavier Caféine, would act like a rock star. And boy, did he ever live up to that promise.

My knowledge of the French language is minimal at best, so the introductions by the opening band were incomprehensible. I never did find out the name, but it's probably better that way. They were a very unspectacular punk band, whose only redeeming factors was the frenetic abandon of the singer/bassist and songs with classy titles like "I Don't Give a Shit About Anyone" and "I Spend All My Money on Crack and Whores." Sometimes bands pick openers who they know will not overshadow them, but rather complement them. It seems this band did neither, but hey, it was kind of fun.

After making the audience endure a good healthy wait, Caféine finally made their entrance. Leader Xavier Caféine strutted out, resplendent in big sunglasses, what looked to be a velvet suit, and high-heeled silver go-go boots. This man exuded what all good glam lead singers should: raunchiness, sexiness and an overall fabulousness. Caféine steamrolled into their first song, leaving the audience breathless. The music was a weird mix of glam and punk. Dirty and elegant at the same time, it was exciting and reckless. Each song was propelled by a great rock and roll attitude with Xavier giving the crowd their money's worth. With every strut and spasm and twirling of the microphone cord, Xavier further cemented

his rock star status. His in-between song banter delighted the crowd (if I spoke French, it may well have delighted me too). Of course, you can't forget the rest of the band. The combination of two guitarists, a bassist and a drummer, was loud, tight and rocked just as much as the lead singer, especially the two guitarists who were Mick Ronsons to Xavier Caféine's David Bowie.

Although songs were entertaining, peppered with amusing lines like "I Feel Like a Girl, Boy", and "I Am a Pornstar", they were indistinct, seeming to blend into each other too



much.

A greater variety of style, which was apparent in some songs, would encourage greater attention—but I'm just splitting hairs. Anyone looking for a good rock and roll high should attend the next Caféine concert, because like the active coffee ingredient, they truly are addictive.

Xavier Caféine speaks candidly with Le Delit about rock 'n' roll (and briefly mentions sex and drugs)

BY ANNE-MARIE ROLLIN
Le Delit Français

Delit: Critics have described Caféine as punk, rock'n'roll, pop and alternative. How would you define your style?

Xavier Caféine: Rock is made as it should be in 2001. Unfortunately, Limp Bizkit is what many people think of as rock.

D: But many critics say that your music is punk. Do you agree with them?

X.C.: I don't really identify

case, it lacks depth. I identify more with artists like Elvis and Mick Jagger. I try to keep it real.

D: Would you be annoyed to see one of your discs placed in the punk section at a record store?

X.C.: No, I don't care how it's classified—what's important is that they get sold. Often, music like mine is sold in the "Francophone" section, even though a majority of the songs are in English.

D: How would you describe Caféine's sound to someone who has never heard you?

X.C.: It's rock'n'roll, it's primitive, it's sexual.

D: Some journalists see your music as influenced by The Cramps, Stooges, Iggy Pop, Pixies and The Ramones. Did these bands really influence you?

X.C.: Yeah, they're definitely influences. It's flattering to be compared to them.

D: Did you get into music when you were young?

X.C.: When I was about a year and a half or two years old, I used to make my parents take pictures of me with a microphone.

D: So your parents aren't surprised at the path you've taken?

X.C.: Not at all. My parents always supported me, even when I left school.

D: So what did you do in school?

X.C.: I entered CEGEP to study social sciences, but I didn't focus on my courses because I was selling drugs. Later, I studied music in CEGEP Marie-Victorin. Hated it. I decided to make real music, to leave the small world of music school.

D: Caféine is particularly known due to the airplay your music has gotten on Montreal university radio stations. Would you have been less successful without that kind of exposure?

X.C.: Absolutely. University radio stations allow quality, but lesser-known groups, to make themselves known. And then, their music can be presented to people that are higher up in the music business.

D: How would you describe the state of rock music in Quebec?

X.C.: Many of the acts aren't made to last. Black Silence, for example—they sold lots of discs, but didn't maintain their momentum. They were replaced by the Baffle—there is a large rotation, a desire to make money quickly. I know how to make music that would go straight to the radio stations, but I don't want to—I want my career to be long term.

D: So where in the world is the good rock these days?

X.C.: In Sweden, there is an amazing movement. The groups go on tour, play the big venues, and they even have American contracts. In the United States, there are The Makers and Turbo Negro. Montreal also has some good bands, like Tricky Woo and 1976.

D: You made your cinematic debut recently. Tell us about it.

X.C.: It's called *Du pic au coeur*, by Celine Baril. It's kind of like *Casablanca*, told in a more modern way. I play a dark and romantic musician—he's a little bit like me.

D: You are DJ at Café Chaos. Is this what you do to make ends meet?

X.C.: I work at the Café Chaos Tuesday, Sunday and Friday. I make my living from the music of others, not mine.

D: So what discs do you play?

X.C.: All kinds of things—Elvis, Beatles, Johnny Thunder, The Pixies, Turbo Negro.

D: What are the three most important things in your life? Cigarettes, coffee and sex?

X.C.: Sex first, then cigarettes—I'd put music in third...you have to live for today, not so that you can play golf during your retirement.

-Translated by Jean Edelstein

Xavier and co. are perking up

with that label. For me, I see punk music—Green Day, and other bands like that—for football playing-types. They're always shown with beautiful bikini-clad girls—that makes them seem extremely adolescent. In any

This Realm is Awful Empty

One way to get a job: start a cheesy magazine

BY JASON REHEL
Culture Reporter

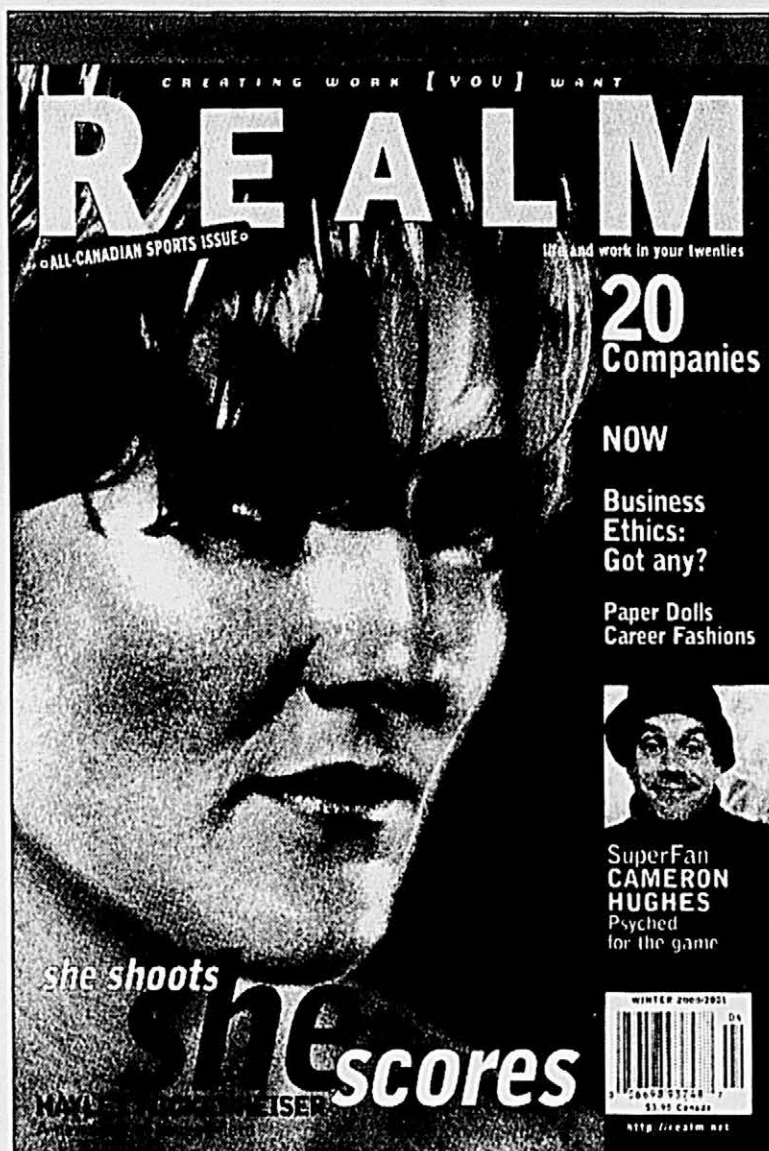
Based in Burnaby, B.C., Realm is a national careers and lifestyle magazine which seems to be trying to reinvent its image in the latest issue. It's a valiant attempt. My real problem with magazines of its type is that although they appear to be concerned with connecting graduates and "twenty-somethings" to real and interesting careers, their first issue included an article entitled "How NOT To Be Like Those Bitter Twisted People Who Hate Their Jobs." They seem to exist for the sole purpose of corporate recruitment.

The anecdotal information which abounds in the Winter 2001 issue of Realm, including an in-depth interview with Canadian women's hockey star Hayley Wickenheiser, shows the innovation of young people in their fields of choice, but the practical information that sits alongside these independent success stories seems to point to the same old... same old.

On pages 16 and 17 of this issue, Realm lists 20 Canadian companies which are currently recruiting including: Bell Canada, Staples (the American office supplies giant) and Canada Post. Hey now that you have your BA, become a letter carrier!

Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with many of the jobs they list. However, Realm, and magazines like Motiv8, seem to be increasingly catering to the mainstream while purporting to offer alternatives.

Another of the main critiques of this publication would also have to be its focus, which is clearly too wide. It attempts to be



Well at least the editors of this magazine have jobs

all things to all campuses, even while the needs of arts degree graduates are clearly different from the needs of trade school graduates. In the print form, this informa-

tion is spread out, inaccessible and largely a waste of time as a tool for career hunting. In some respects, (A Human Resources Development Canada ad and a trade school supplement) the magazine is able to offer a little more than its feel-good drivel of DIY success stories. The "reverby" internship network program seems intriguing, with its network of market, editorial and campus student agents across the country, but when I queried Lisa Manfield, editor of the magazine, she claimed there was no formal link to undergraduate student associations across the country. Currently the magazine is funded predominantly by the federal government and HRDC, but Manfield says they are "moving towards self-sufficiency." I

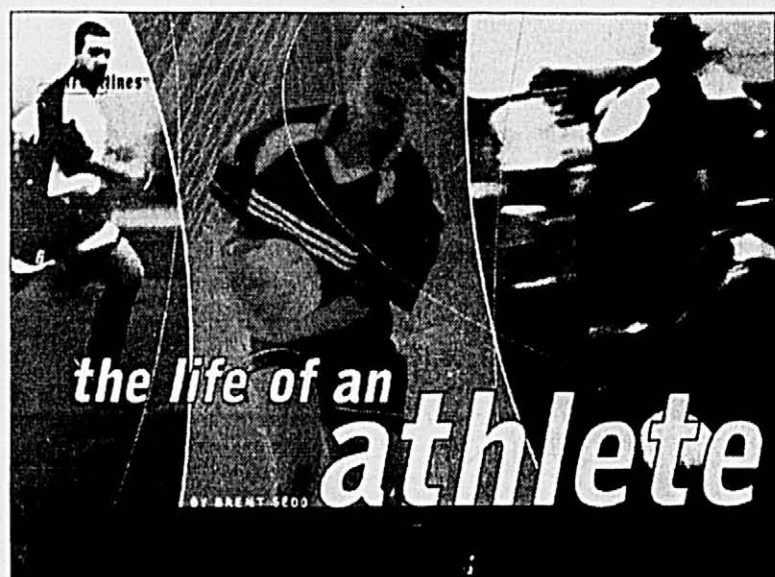
guess that's what the Du Maurier ad on the inside front cover is all about. Ironically a cover kicker calls out the question: "Business Ethics: Got Any?"

The affiliated website, www.realm.net, seems much more useful as a jumping off point, with fresher and more organized content, but sadly its classifieds are threadbare and it contains no links section. Its stories, again, are based on individual experiences and narrative stories of success, but as a tool, they seem to be of little use.

By failing to pick an audience, failing to provide fresh information to accompany its fresh stories, Realm is unable to provide for its main goal of helping to "Create work you want." A refocusing of the identity of this magazine is needed if it is to survive. This ought to be evident in the paltry reader response numbers to the fall 2000 survey (287), and the lack of interest at McGill itself, where, in the CAPS centre, not one person seemed at all interested in the magazine which lay discarded on tables. Ironically they claim their readership to be more than one million per issue.

When I asked Lisa Manfield about the vision for the future of Realm she spoke of "honing the content" and "working more with their audience to plan for future issues."

The question I had asked her though, seemed to be of even more interest now: What audience? And who are they? Having just expanded their quarterly issues from 48 to 56 pages, with a circulation of 200,000 in English and 75,000 in French, one has to wonder if magazines like Realm, totally or partially subsidized by the government, end up existing solely for their advertisers once funding is blown out. And if so, what purpose do they serve other than to add to the already burgeoning corporate presence on campus in a quasi-official/informational form? Do we really need this kind of stuff, public or privately funded, littering our campuses and force-feeding us more of the work-world rhetoric we are already subject to? Let's get serious, people: a "trendsetters" section that talks about boy bands? There was far better copy than that in my lowly high school paper.



Anyone who has ever hit a ball or swum a couple of hundred laps can appreciate the level of training needed to be a champion athlete. But while athletes are working physically hard to succeed at their chosen sport, there is often another workout going on behind the scenes: the effort required to generate enough money to support themselves while training. Coaching, equipment, travel and room and board all require money. And earning that money can be a difficult thing when athletic training is a full-time job. For most athletes, funding is a year-to-year process of finding sponsors, applying for scholarships, working a part-time job or some combination of these.

Depending on their sport and level of success, some athletes may be eligible for funding from Sport Canada and/or their national sport association. In 1999-2000, the federal government, through Sport Canada, spent \$53 million on sports, giving grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$1.1 million to a variety of national sports

associations (e.g., Canadian Gymnastics Federation, Judo Canada), sporting events (e.g., the Pan-Am Games, Arctic Winter Games) or training centres. Individually, athletes may receive a monthly stipend as a living and training allowance. In previous years, athletes in this Athlete Assistance Program were classified or "ranked" on a set of criteria in comparison with their level of development or ranking in world competitions, and received from \$100 a month to \$1,000 a month, depending on their ranked status. Beginning in 2000, this system was adjusted so that all "senior" ranked athletes receive \$1,000 per month, and "development" ranked athletes receive \$500 a month.

The one thing all athletes have in common is that there are no guarantees. If you fail to get good results, or worse, suffer a season-ending injury, that sponsorship, scholarship or funding could be gone the next year. Here's a look at four athletes who are finding a way to win both on the field and in the game of funding.

Culture: more than just the chunks in your yogurt.



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cult.hit

BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK

The attraction towards journalism is the same attraction that a writer feels towards any form of writing: the power of words. The pen is mightier than the sword is an old cliché that few people believe any more. Can mere words, words on a page like the one you are reading right now, change anything in the real world?

While I can attest to the power of words to change opinions - my own have oscillated after reading a particularly convincing column - it is a little harder to believe that widespread change can be wrought through writing. Can the economy fluctuate due to a few poorly worded articles?

Naomi Klein, in a recent column for The Globe and Mail, posits so. Just as a stock can rise through the frenzied buzz surrounding it, so can a recession be brought on, just by talking about it, says Klein. "If incantations can bring us into a boom fuelled by vastly overvalued stocks, then incantation of another sort — the recitation of the dreaded R-word — can trigger a bust as well," she writes. Scary

stuff, this language. What are you reading, asks Polonius. Hamlet: Words, words, words, words.

The power of words was not uppermost in my mind when I wrote a letter to the Globe and Mail a couple of months ago mocking Michael Moriarty's bizarre and infrequent pieces on the comment pages there. Moriarty, who used to play the district attorney on Law and Order, had already been assailed by letter writers just a few days before my letter was published.

"[His articles] may not make any sense or show any capacity to formulate arguments on Mr. Moriarty's part, but at least they present a different viewpoint from the tired polemics of the other columnists," I wrote. "Perhaps next time he'll compare Canadians to platypuses and advocate a hexagonal tax. Besides, he writes like Ben Stone speaks, and it's fun to read his columns aloud to reruns of *Law and Order*."

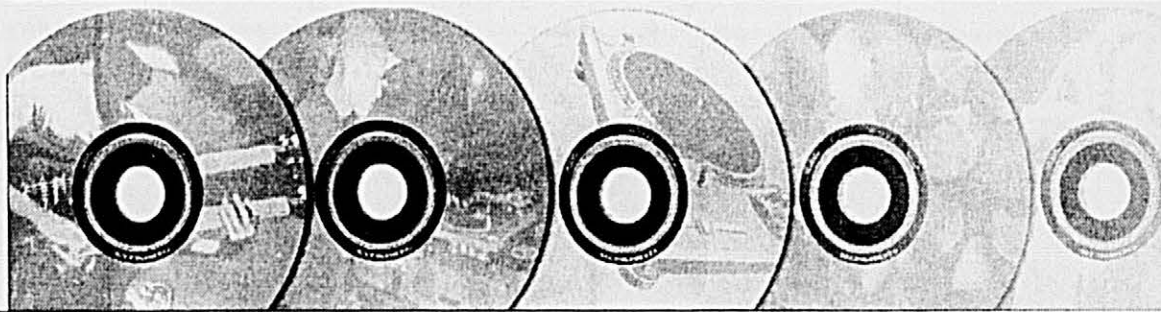
Indeed, instead of being motivated by an earnest attempt to communicate through some message, my letter was a vain and cynical barb intended to kick someone when he was down and elevate myself. I was pulling a political move like those found in the recent federal election, where instead of saying, "We will re-invest in health care," the Liberals spouted, "The Alliance wants two-tier health care." I eschewed any agenda of respect. Little did I know what would happen next.

The day that my letter appeared, Moriarty reportedly went out to a bar and got drunk. He was later brought up on assault charges. My imagination fills in the

blanks: as Moriarty sits around with a friend bemoaning his slip in status and the ridicule he has suffered once again in the morning papers. "There is no respect to be found in our society anymore, sir," he states. "We are all victims in this culture of condemnation. It's a damn shame, Adam. Pass the Schnapps." Before long, the Schnapps bottle is empty, the room is spinning and the woman across the room looks a little too much like Jill Hennessey. He swings, and the long arm of real-life law and order catches up with him.

Since reading of his arrest and court case, I have been filled with guilt. This once formidable actor reduced to a bar-brawling loser. I wonder how tabloid writers, who make a living attacking actors and public figures, get over the guilt that remains after someone they've criticized takes a fall. I wonder how respectable journalists, who do the same damn thing, get over it. Every time I flip on A&E, there is Moriarty in perpetual syndication staring at me like my own tell-tale heart beating under the floorboards. In the. Crim-in-al. Jus-tice. Sy-stem. There are...

While we may be lulled into a sense that our words, whether in a novel, an essay or a letter to the editor, make no difference on the world around us, it should be recognized that language is the bricks and mortar of the world around us. It may be true that it is all a façade, but if we underestimate the power of words, we may find the society around us collapsing with them. Forget about sticks and stones. It's the words that ultimately can hurt the most.



CD REVIEWS

Daybreak Express
The Valentino Orchestra
Just A Memory Records Inc.

As a primer for someone interested in knowing more about "the spark that lit up the music of the 20th century - Edward Kennedy 'Duke' Ellington," the liner notes alone make it worth buying this album. For someone into Ellington, this is an



absolute gem to add to one's collection.

Andrew Homzy, associate professor of music at Concordia University and an internationally esteemed scholar of Ellingtonia, has collaborated with a group of obviously dedicated Montreal musicians and scholars to present a particularly excit-

ing combination of well-known and obscure Ellington tunes from the 30's and early 40's. Although Homzy declares, "We don't intend to be authentic, but we strive to be enjoyable," the meticulous musicianship and priceless selection of arrangements, never before recorded, makes this a serious documentation of the Ellington heritage, not to mention, a treasure for anyone at all attracted to his music. - *Shane Nestruck*

Poem
Delerium
Nettwerk

Poem is Delerium's long-awaited follow up to 1997's very successful *Karma*. That album was most famous for the popular tune "Silence," featuring Sarah McLachlan, another Nettwerk artist.

Once again the band has put together a series of gentle, new-age electronica, with ancient chants creating a mysterious aura in the background. The difference this time is that Rhys Fulber is no longer on board as one-half of the band. Now, only Bill Leeb is left creating the atmospheric music, all on his own, fielding all the instruments.

Fortunately, this has not left the band half-assed; it is still full assed.

Seeing who's going to turn up as the special guest voices on the tracks is one of the joys of Delerium's music. Leigh Nash from Sixpence None The Richer does a nice turn on "Innocente," as do the lesser known Joanna Stevens (from Solar Twins), Rani, Jennifer McLaren and Kirsty Hawkshaw on their tracks.



A little more vocal heavy than the last, *Poem* still manages to stay clear of sounding like anything else out there right now. If anything, the departure of Fulber from Delerium has produced a more cohesive album than either *Karma* or their debut *Semantic Spaces*. - *J. Kelly Nestruck*

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

Obstructing Traffic

Soderbergh shows all facets of drug war

BY PAUL BERRY
Culture Reporter

Trying to catch a ride on a wave of critical acclaim, I set out to see Steven Soderbergh's new drug epic, *Traffic*. The carnival-like atmosphere and overwhelming crowds at the hideous Paramount theatre did little to help my mood.

These recent months have been a generally weak period for Hollywood, with disappointment after disappointment cranked out with depressing regularity. On that note, it's nice to report that *Traffic*, though not as brilliant as many reviewers have said, comes pretty darn close. It does a commendable job of examining the good of U.S.A.'s thriving drug culture from a number of angles.

The film spotlights the various sides of this huge enterprise and subculture with an emphasis on the reasons why efforts to win this war have been mostly unsuccessful. Much of the film is set in Mexico, where corruption and distrust are the name of the game and the drug industry keeps many an "upstanding" politician and police officer in its back pocket.

Benicio Del Toro plays a conflicted cop who is thrust into the upper reaches of the duel between two rival cartels. Catherine Zeta-Jones plays a wealthy California woman whose husband's arrest reveals the powerful drug-importing position that he has kept secret from her. And the new U.S. drug czar, played by Michael Douglas, finds out that his high-school daughter has quite the little free-basing habit of her own. These plots alternate seamlessly as the film jumps from mostly-subtitled scenes in Mexico to the drug-fueled misadventures of Douglas' daughter and her prep-school friends. Credit for *Traffic*'s excellence should go first and foremost to director Soderbergh, who's had quite a successful run of late. From his stylish crime capers *Out of Sight* and *The Limey* to the Julia Roberts megahit *Erin Brockovich*, Soderbergh has become one of the most talked-about directors in Hollywood. Here, Soderbergh delivers the goods and then some. Having done his own cinematography under a pseudonym, the director's inspired stamp is all over *Traffic*. He shoots the Mexico scenes in rich, hazy yellows and bathes the Washington D.C. shots in a bureaucratic blue, contrasting the bounties

of nature with the capital's sterile feel.

The performances are also high calibre, as Soderbergh's hot streak helped him secure lots of top talent. Douglas is strong, although one gets the feeling watching that perhaps there should be some sort of limit to the number of powerful WASPs that he portrays on film. It seems everywhere you look it's Michael Douglas in a thousand-dollar suit looking all commanding and prestigious. There are certainly worse things to be typecast as. Del Toro justifies the promise he's shown in films like *The Usual Suspects*, delivering the most fascinating performance in the film, as a man whose heart and mind are pulling him in innumerable different directions.

Though the ending is a bit dissatisfying, *Traffic* achieves most of its lofty goals. The film provides some very interesting explanations for why the war on drugs waged by politicians has failed, and will probably continue to fail. It manages to feel epic in scope but never bloated. In addition, the film leaves a lot up to the viewer, not preaching the oft-heard messages one might associate with other movies in the field. As drug movies go, if *Requiem For A Dream*'s unflinching

addiction horrors prove to be too much to handle for fuddy-duddy Oscar voters, they could do much worse than handing some hardware to *Traffic*.



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Hear Hear, Beer!

Snow AP combines brew and music for unique entertainment experience

BY OLIVIA POJAR
Culture Reporter

It's minus 30 out and it's the middle of December. "Let's make like polar bears and go swim in the Atlantic!" "Wow...this hot-tub sure is warm. Let's go see who can do the most log rolls in the snow!"

It's January and the lower field is windswept and covered in snow. "Dude! Let's erect a tent and hold concerts!"

Canadians say the darndest things eh? Maybe, like batteries, the cold has numbed our mental capacities. Perhaps the long winter nights are finally getting to us and, cooped up in our ghetto-homes like snow-bound ski lodges, we've finally snapped, picked up the ax, and terrorized Shelley Duval.

Because, like good old Jack, slightly insane is the only way I can describe Snow-AP.

Granted, it is a good place to go in between class. It's just a tad more atmospheric than the Shatner cafeteria and nobody on a power trip is going to ask to see your student card. And they sure as hell make it hot enough in there. The generators were going full blast causing students to shed numerous layers, making gender-discrimination once more possible.

But I still ask why? It can't be the music because honestly, half the bands are piss-drunk and the sound-system is

less than stellar. I was only able to catch my old buddies The Delegates because my newfound job as a BMH dishpig fills up my weeknights. However, I'm pretty sure that the rest of the acts also sounded as though those creepy guys at your highschool were working the sound-system.

It's not exactly the atmosphere either. While a few people drunkenly assured me (many, many times) that Snow-AP was a great idea, most thought it was rather stupid and were only there to support their friends in the bands.

So there is the good factor that it supports and provides a venue for McGill talent. But couldn't there be something along the lines of Snow-AP in say, Shatner Ballroom? An actual building where heating is already provided and we don't have to waste massive amounts of energy warming a badly-constructed circus tent?

Truth be told, on the whole I like to keep as far away as possible from any activities with SSMU or McGill in the title. Also, to me the words "Peel" and "Angel's" are not synonymous with "fun." So on one hand, it could be said that "Snow Air Pub" is not exactly my scene. However, it seems that the majority is with me on this subject as almost everyone that I asked on Thursday disliked Snow-AP. And yet the tent was full to capacity.

I was finally enlightened as to the drawing power of Snow-AP as I sat crammed into the big white tent watching Menno sing wordlessly into a soundless microphone. Some big guy bumped into me and spilled the contents of his cup down my back. And as the cold and fizzy liquid trickled horribly down my spine, I realized that, like everything else at McGill, there is one thing that drives Snow-AP, draws students to its white tent, and makes the music sound really good: Beer.

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Ben Errett

Spinning some tunes in the cold

Are McGill Residences Riddled with Russians?



Leo Tolstoy



Nikita Khrushchev



Anna Kournikova



Anton Chekov



Catherine the Great



Andrei Sakharov



Vladimir Nabokov



Leon Trotsky



Vladimir Lenin

*When you ask
to be connected
to famous
Russians,
confused
students
answer*

BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK
The McGill Daily

Ever since McGill Residences instituted voice recognition software, it has become easier than ever to call up Freshmen residents and long dead Russians. All you have to do is say their names and immediately the system will connect you with the man or woman you are looking for. Here's what our Slavic search turned up:

- **Famous Russian:** Leo Tolstoy
- **McGill Counterpart:** Jules Hollander
- **How do you feel about being compared to Tolstoy?** That's pretty grandiose. I don't know what say. He's too long dead to feel that close to.
- **War or Peace?** Peace, preferably.
- **Crime or Punishment?** Crime.

- **Famous Russian:** Nikita Khrushchev
- **McGill Counterpart:** Robin Christopher
- **How do you feel about being compared to Khrushchev?** It's pretty scary. I did not expect that association.
- **Have you ever said "We will bury you" to anyone?** A sports team. My high school's rival sports team.
- **Was it some sort of chant or cheer?** Sort of.

- **Famous Russian:** Anna Kournikova
- **McGill Counterpart:** Ashley McCord
- **How do you feel about being compared to Kournikova?** I'm kind of sporty.
- **Do you play tennis?** No. I play soccer.
- **What would happen if I searched for you on the Internet?** You wouldn't find me.

- **Famous Russian:** Anton Chekov
- **McGill Counterpart:** Anthony Szabo
- **How do you feel about being compared to Chekov?** It could be worse.
- **Do you like cherries?** They're okay.

- **Have you ever been in a cherry orchard?** No.
- **How many sisters do you have?** No sisters.

- **Famous Russian:** Catherine the Great
- **McGill Counterpart:** Catherine Boleyn
- **How do you feel about being compared to Catherine the Great?** It could be flattering. I haven't really thought about it that much.
- **Do you ever call yourself Catherine the Great?** No.
- **Are you a feminist?** I've always been able to take what I want. I've never really had any problems to get involved.

- **Famous Russian:** Andrei Sakharov
- **McGill Counterpart:** Eugene Sokoloff
- **How do you feel about being compared to Sakharov?** The part about speaking out against communism, I agree with. As for speaking out against the bomb, I think it was important for Russia to have had the bomb in order to preserve that bi-polar balance after the Second World War.
- **Are you related to any Russians?** I come from a long line of Russians. I am related by blood to the Troubetzkys. They were one of the Russian noble families. Among other things they contributed to the liberalisation of the education system in Russia. And they were key players among early dissidents in the upper nobility against the Tsar.
- **What major are you?** Political Science.

- **Famous Russian:** Vladimir Nabokov
- **McGill Counterpart:** Debra Walsh
- **Do you like Butterflies?** Yes.
- **Do you collect Butterflies?** No. I like looking at butterflies, when they're alive.
- **Have you ever had a relationship with someone younger than you?** No.
- **Famous Russian:** Leon Trotsky
- **McGill Counterpart:** Sara Strawczynski
- **How do you feel about being compared to Trotsky?** It's sort of weird.
- **Have you ever used an icepick?** No.
- **Have you ever been threatened by someone with an icepick?** Maybe by my brother when we were younger.

- **Famous Russian:** Vladimir Lenin
- **McGill Counterpart:** Sarah Greer
- **How do you feel about being compared to Lenin?** I'm not very fond of him.
- **How many years would it take you ...to industrialize Russia?** It took Stalin 30 years, so a bit longer.
- **...to finish your degree?** Three
- **...to overthrow the Canadian government and institute a Communist regime?** Not in my lifetime.

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Pussy Protectors Promote Periods

Student groups in Ottawa decry tampon industry

BY KAREN M. KAUFMAN
The Fulcrum, Ottawa

A new group at two Ontario universities calling itself the Pussy Protectors is trying to change people's attitudes towards menstruation.

Members of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University say menstruation is about as natural as breathing or blinking, but society has classified it as dirty and shameful.

The group has been promoting its cause at workshops and by handing out information on both campuses. So far the feedback has been positive, said Jessica Carfagnini, a co-ordinator of the group.

The Pussy Protectors believe that when it comes to feminine hygiene products, many consumers are misinformed about which products are safe and easy to use.

Carfagnini said companies use chemicals to make their products white in colour.

"There is bleach and other dioxins to make the product appear sterile," claimed Carfagnini. "Tampons are not sterile at all, they're only made to look that way."

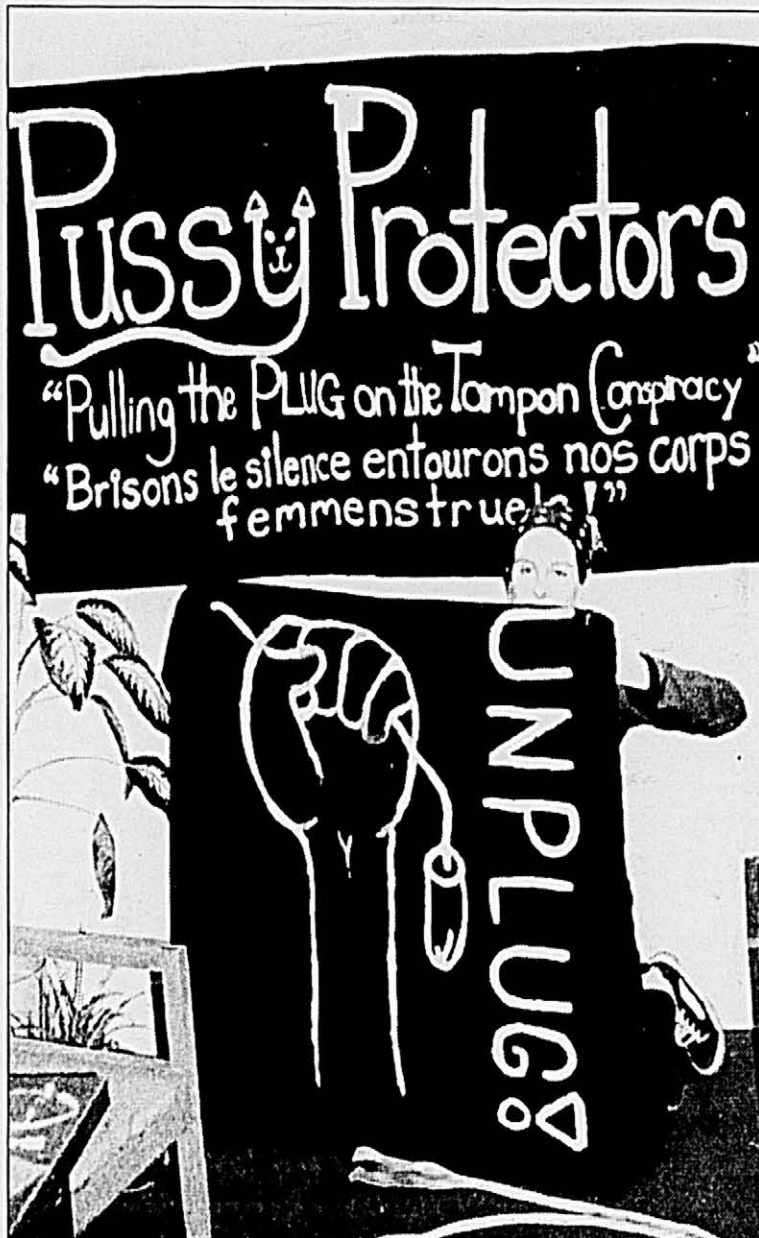
Dan Hunt, a communications officer at Kimberly-Clark, the manufacturer of Kotex tampons, said his company makes products that are becoming more biodegradable and more ecologically friendly.

"There are no known health risks associated with our products," he said. "If there were problems with our products, then they are probably more related to either the environment or the woman herself."

He explained that Toxic Shock Syndrome - a health risk associated with tampons that occurs when the product is used internally for an extended amount of time - is caused by bacteria in the body, not the product itself.

Recent congressional action has been taken against the tampon industry in the United States, spearheaded by United States Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney. In 1997, she introduced legislation concerning accurate information for tampon users. The bi-partisan bill called for research that would benefit all women in allowing them to make informed decisions concerning their health, as relating to tampon use. The Tampon Safety and Research Act as proposed by Maloney sought to examine the presence of potentially toxic chemicals involved in the tampon production process.

"Why is this issue important? Because tampons and other related products often contain additives, synthetic fibers, and dioxin. Dioxin is a toxic by-product of the paper manufacturing process. Wood pulp, as well as the rayon used in nearly all tampons,



undergoes several production processes; a common method is chlorine bleaching, a process which results in the formation of dioxin and other contaminants...According to a 1994 report issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, dioxins are a known animal cancer-causing agent as well as a prob-

"We hide the fact that women menstruate, when we do this we are reinforcing shame about women's sexuality."

able human carcinogen."

"My bill is specifically concerned with the possible links between dioxin in tampons and ovarian, cervical, and breast cancers, as well as other potential hazards. A 1996 EPA study has also linked dioxin exposure with increased risks for endometriosis, an often painful menstrual-related condition that is a leading cause of infertility. Further, the EPA has concluded that people with high exposure to dioxins may be at risk for other effects

that could suppress the immune system, increase the risk of pelvic inflammatory disease, reduce fertility, and possibly interfere with normal fetal and childhood development." These statements were made by Maloney on Nov. 11, 1997 when she first proposed such legislation. The Pussy Protectors advocate similar information dissemination, as well as focusing on further damaging evidence against the tampon industry.

"A woman will use about 10,000 pads and tampons in her lifetime," said Carfagnini. "That's about 215 in a year. Environmentally, that's a lot of waste, so one of the mandates of the Pussy Protectors is to make people aware of the alternatives."

The Pussy Protectors have set up reusable pad-making workshops and struck a deal with two female entrepreneurs to sell The Keeper, a re-usable menstrual cup.

Finally, the Pussy Protectors hope to combat the stigma surrounding menstruation.

"We hide the fact that women menstruate," said Carfagnini. "When we do this, we are reinforcing shame about women's sexuality and the natural processes."

The Pussy Protectors aren't well known around campus, but their efforts have the support of Barbara Pisani, a co-ordinator at the University of Ottawa's Health Promotion Resource Centre.

"Women's health is very important," said Pisani. "When people come in, we

"Tampons are not sterile at all, they're only made to look that way..."

try to inform them as best as we can, especially women, because health is an issue we all need to be concerned about."

At McGill University, the Blood Sisters serve a similar purpose for women. By promoting alternative menstrual products and attacking the chemical-inundated tampon industry and the taxing of tampons as so-called "luxury items", the Blood Sisters join the Pussy Protectors in the menstrual revolution. The store, Elle Corazon in the Plateau, was recently opened by the Blood Sisters, founded by A.D., who goes only by her first name.

At the McGill Women's Union, the Blood Sisters sell their chemically-free tampons and reusable Keeper, a menstrual cup, at cost. They are located on the fourth floor of the Shatner Building, and all women are welcome.

The entirety of the alternative menstrual movement represents, in A.D.'s mind, "an act of resistance and an act of taking care to address the menstrual experience." The work of the Blood Sisters and the Pussy Protectors decrease our menstrual ignorance, and this knowledge is power.

For more information on the Blood Sisters, email them at bloodsisters@chick-mail.com. To explore more alternatives to menstrual protection, check out www.eco-logique.com, www.fda.gov/cdrb/d/tamponsabs, www.pacificcoast.net/~many-moons/

-with files from Sari Long

TRY THIS TEST: FROM THE PUSSY PROTECTOR'S PROPAGANDA

1. Take a tampon out of its wrapper and put it in a jar of water and do not shake or move it.

2. Leave it there for 20 minutes.

3. Now open the jar and smell. Look at a light source through the jar. What do you see?

And that's after twenty minutes! How long do you leave your tampons in for? Besides, there are many more safer, more environmentally friendly alternatives

THE TAMPON ALTERNATIVES

1. **The Keeper:** a rubber, reusable menstrual cup that you can leave in for a longer period of time without increased risk of Toxic Shock Syndrome; lasts for 10 years and costs around US\$33; it can be worn for up to 12 hours and is safe to wear overnight; it takes practice to get used to it, but is more economical, environmentally friendly and corporately-destructive than regular, chemical-filled tampons

2. **Washable Pads:** can be made from cotton or flannel in a variety of patterns and thicknesses; is safe to use for any length of time and can be homemade; organic cotton materials are available through companies such as LunaPad for a totally organic protection; environmentally friendly, no risk of Toxic Shock Syndrome though cleanup is a bit of a hassle

feasts



BY FRANKLIN SACKVILLE
The Daily Gourmand

This lowly scribbler is proud to announce that, after its first appearance, Feasts of Fury generated a minivan full of reader response. The most scintillating letter came from Kirsten, who volunteered the topic of service at local restaurants. She's from outside of Toronto, where she worked as a waitress at an upscale Italian trattoria. She admits that this has made her a more demanding customer, but she still insists that she's seen "the absolute worst service imaginable" eating in Montreal.

It wasn't always this way. My father tells stories about how if Montreal waiters so much as touched the top half of any of the cutlery, they would be fired on the spot. He would particularly relish telling this

story when we were at a restaurant with lacking service, which usually occurred at family-style establishments in Ontario. It would seem that the tables have been turned. A friend who has also waitressed in both Toronto and Montreal confirms Kirsten's story, noting that service in Montreal is horrible compared to the Toronto standard. And a random sampling of Feasts of Fury readers revealed that the water often tastes like chlorine, the coffee

like soap, and if you're homeless, you can just forget about service.

Is it because we're students and assumed to be poor tippers that we get the big screw? Possibly. But my Toronto waitress friend says that the tips are better here than in the Big Smoke. I'd guess that the more likely reason is simply that they can get away with it. The stuck-up 9-to-5ers living in The Centre of The Universe demand good service so they can get back to Bay

Street on time. Maybe it's time that Montrealers did this. Or are we living at such a more leisurely pace that we need that extra time to sit and chat? While I am a proponent of the slow food movement, I've had the experience of sitting at the table watching my bone-dry water glass collect cobwebs. So the "slow service on purpose to help you digest" argument seems moot to me, especially when I'm late for class because of it. It would seem that

we as restaurant patrons need to band together if we want things to change. Sure, we may have to have our soup spat in as we aggressively demand our water glass refilled, but it could improve dining in this city for years to come.

Franklin Sackville is The Daily's authority on all things culinary. If you're got an opinion on service or anything else, email feasts@mcgilldaily.com

*I've always
wanted to...*

TOBOGGAN WITH A CLUB

Who: The McGill Sledding Society. They're a bunch of crazy McGill kids, most of whom live in upper Rez. So far, the new club has signed up about 160 members.

What: Group sledding on Mount Royal. The Society aims to organize tobogganing excursions. They practice both traditional sledding and what coordinator Spencer Mann calls "the ideal sledding technique," which involves kneeling in the back of a specially outfitted sled and doing "pretty wild stuff."

When: Probably every weekend, as weather permits. They're planning their first meeting soon.

Where: On the mountain, both on the official slope near Beaver Lake and on more hazardous less-travelled runs.

How much: It costs \$5 to join the club, which will cover communal sleds.

Comments: For more information, call Spencer Mann at 398-3010 ext.00186. He hopes to have a club webpage up soon.

-Ben Errett



This guy is probably a little more hard core than you will be, tobogganing with the Sledding Society, but you can always dream.

Are You Being Served...Rudely?

Service at local restos raises reader's ire

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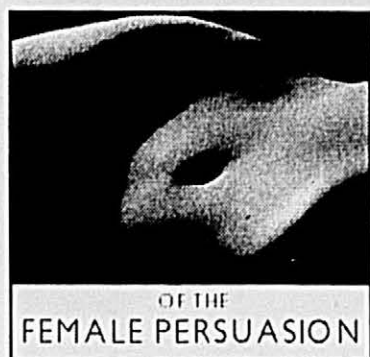
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No Tips, More Clits

Column smokes Cosmo, promotes sexual self-awareness



BY RANDI REYES
The McGill Daily

Maybe it's just today, or maybe it's the knowledge of the stiff (no pun intended) competition, of being the new counterpart to John LaSere's well established column, that's getting to me. Or maybe it's the fact that here I am, a girl with no particular qualifications, with only the gall to represent all of female McGill in the bedroom. So in advance ladies, forgive me, it is impossible to be the perfect ambassador. But I am hoping, as the weeks go by to open doors for both the men and the women, to say what we all think and to move beyond just personal experiences and analyze, in my own particular manner, what this whole sex thing means to me, and the world around me.

I think that the very nature of my approach says something. Much as those Cosmo tips on "How to give your love life a makeover" entice me, when

"I encourage every girl I know to masturbate"

asked to write about sex, all the product I turn out has very little to do with the act itself. Don't get me wrong, I am an adamant supporter of the idea that women have strong sex drives, I encourage every girl I know to masturbate, and I have used a mirror to see what exactly is going on "down there". But even writing this causes a certain level of insecurity. In our post-women's movement society the sticker of dyke and feminist have become interchangeable. The Spice Girls tell us we're equal while wearing their underwear, but I digress. Exploring our bodies makes us a squirm a little, and it makes the boys squirm a lot. While it is cool and adult to have sex, the idea of women using sex toys and enhancing their own sexuality is taboo.

I get concerned while writing these

columns that I fill them too much with women's issues while not concentrating enough on women's sexual issues, but I have come to the decision that the two are interchangeable, whether we're talking about anorexia, the "slut syndrome," or makeup. Sex is there, all the time. Some ties are subtle, others are obvious, but they don't remain in the bedroom.

So I doubt you'll find any tips on how to give good head here, but you will find (radical) ideas about the way men and women relate to each other. We'll talk about why some women don't like sex. The Big O, The Big M, and the Big V, just to name a few. We'll have a few lesbian columns to see not only if the grass is greener on the other side, but to explore sex issues in same-sex female relationships. We'll look at the female anatomy and see what there is to see. We'll also revisit our old friend porn, and see what's new with him. We'll discuss bending gender boundaries and S&M. Nervous yet? Don't worry, there's a first time for everything.

Bla bla bla, want advice, comments, issues you want to deal with, randi_reyes@nerve.com

Congratulations! It's a January!

A guide to raising the newborn month

BY JULIA DAULT
The McGill Daily

We are trapped in the newborn month of January.

With no motor skills and no communication capabilities except the occasional 'blep' or 'waaaa', January can't do much. In these early stages, it can sleep, eat and shit. Otherwise, it is a painfully bald, pink, and wrinkly month. Of course, January will grow. It will quickly learn what works and become February; it will grow teeth and become March. Before we know it, it'll be making friends (April), staying out way too late (May) and experimenting (June, July). After a degree, it's unemployment (August), relocation (September), maybe a partner or two (October). Then, it's kids, antiques, and a little gray hair (November) and finally, some sort of physical dysfunction (December) and the year - shall we say - will be put to rest. The short mourning period takes us to the next birth for which we are eternally and metaphysically relieved.

After January's birth has been celebrated (whether on the first of the month, or later, as with Chinese New Year) nothing happens. There are attempts, of course: feeble winter carnivals, some prevailing lights and decorations, tired sales of rejected goods leftover from the holiday frenzy (to remind us that giving is good?). What remains is a helpless, bewildered month

that, although determined to become more competent, is for the moment, frustratingly dull and humdrum. The key to getting through it? Re-routing. That's right: re-channeling, re-shaping, re-configuring, re-freshing. It is in these early stages of the year's life that the important foundations must be built.

There are two options. The first is to augment January's fragility. This requires small preparation: some extra pairs of wool socks (army surplus, 10-20 dollars each), a flannel sheet set (Simons, 20-35 dollars), carbohydrates (your pick, anywhere from 2-5 dollars) and some for-fun books, not some for-school books (free-40 dollars). Keep this in mind: you are the nurturer. Only do what's best for you and the month. If this means staying in to make the perfect wallowing CD (try "One" (U2), "Why Can't I Stand One Night Stands" (Catatonia), "Katy Song" (Red House Painters), "Sounds Familiar" (The Weakerthans), then fine. Put whiskey in your coffee, eat buttery croissants on the way to school, wait for the other person to move out of the way, fine, fine, fine. Only do that which you must do for you. Of course, this is not a call to revoke all responsibility. What it promotes is taking on only that which you want. Only say 'yes' to those things that will feed your and January's needs.

The other option is to do the exact

opposite. Celebrate January's mundanity. Take January by its little clutching hand and force it to grow. Feed it activity steroids by doing things that you don't normally do. Don't just go to movies at Parc or have coffee on St. Laurent in your free time. Instead, take a day trip to Quebec City (Voyageur, \$29.68 one-way), chase small dogs (free), go the opposite direction (free). In this case, you are the explorer. The key here is to leave the home range. And while this option may ring eerily of optimism akin to plastic, cruiseship activity coordinators, its worth lies in its newness. In truth, what you do does not so much matter; what does is that whatever it is is not normal, not regular for you, and in this way, is everything but humdrum.

There is a lesson in January: raise it as you wish. In its premature, infirm state, January is a month that, to be strong enough to warrant the proceeding year, must be cosseted. And while this does entail some self-indulgence, the indulgence that is required here is synonymous with knowing oneself. In its preliminary stages, this time of the year is a time to figure out what you want, not to make resolutions, but to further (inherent with the inevitable passing of time) the cultivation of the self.

So, congratulations at being a parent! Now, raise the helpless bundle of a month beyond its normal bleak and destitute fate, then sit back and watch it grow.

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